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Volume 71, Issue 44 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Otsego HS hosts state band festival, earns top marks

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Hosting a state-level event is no small task.

By all accounts, Otsego Public Schools made it look easy.

Otsego High School served as the site of the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) State Band Festival on Wednesday, April 22, and Thursday, April 23, welcoming dozens of schools from across the state while also delivering standout performances of its own.

"Festival was one of the smoothest ever," Otsego band director Mitch Piersma said. "Our parents were so on top of it, everything went the way it should and they received many compliments from the judges, festival workers, and band directors."

The two-day event featured 21 bands and five orchestras, with performances beginning at 8 a.m. each day and running into the late afternoon.

While the performances took center stage, much of the work happened behind the scenes.

"There is a lot of communication involved," Piersma said. "Many 'how-to' lists and sign-up sheets for volunteers. The state handles the scheduling and adjudication side of things, but we do everything else — sending schools information, making maps, providing food, managing traffic flow and supplying percussion equipment."

Otsego has become a familiar host for the event, having welcomed the state festival nearly every year since 2015.

"The state and many area — and even non-local — bands love our auditorium and how our parents run things," Piersma said.

That support was evident throughout the week.

According to district officials, dozens of band boosters and volunteers helped ensure the event ran smoothly, assisting with everything from concert setup to greeting visiting schools.

The host Bulldogs also made the most of their opportunity on the stage.

Both the Symphonic Band and Concert Band earned Division I ratings — the highest possible — with judges marking each category as "superior," district officials said in a release.

Piersma said he was particularly impressed with how both groups handled early performance times.

"I was especially impressed that both groups had the 8:00 a.m. performance slot — first of the day — and didn't let the 'morning blahs' affect their playing," he said.

The Symphonic Band, which performed on Wednesday, went a step further by selecting two pieces from the more challenging Class AA list despite being a Class B school.

"I was impressed that the Symphonic Band pulled off two songs off the Class AA required list," Piersma said. "They received all A's on their musical report card."

The Concert Band followed with a strong showing Thursday morning.

"I was impressed with how precise the Concert Band sounded and how clean they played their march," Piersma said.

At top, Otsego High School band director Mitch Piersma presents his band at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association State Band Festival, hosted by Otsego. Below, the OHS band performs. (Photos provided)

Across the board, feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

"The judges just raved about our performances on their recordings," Piersma said. "They were also very impressed with how things were run. I didn't hear a negative comment from anyone."

For Piersma, the success of the event came down to preparation — and people.

"I honestly wasn't as stressed as normal because our parents were so on top of things," he said. "If there was an issue, they solved it gracefully and swiftly — and thankfully, there weren't many issues."

Plainwell MS bridge building program enjoys historic year

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

It's been a historic year for Plainwell Middle School's bridge building program.

Seven teams from the school qualified for the State of Michigan Design and Build Bridge Challenge, while another advanced to the national level, highlighting the strength of the program and the work being done by students in and out of the classroom.

The process to reach those competitions is extensive. Students must submit detailed research proposals — often 20-25 pages — present their designs to professional engineers and construct a 16-inch balsa wood truss bridge capable of withstanding testing.

At the state level, Plainwell had seven teams, totaling 21 students, qualify for the competition held April 14 in Grand Rapids. With proposals submitted from schools across Michigan, having that many teams accepted was a notable accomplishment.

Those teams included INVINCIBridge (Tripp Wheeler, Blake Kemp, Ryan Halik), MMB (Conner Campbell, Gavin Drewyor, Jayce Wrobleski), TMW (Hunter Sopjes, Dylan Larsen, Emmett Haire), Terrific Trojans (Leah DeHaan, Vera Wilkinson, Alexis Hansen), Trojan Truss Bridge Builder (Maximus Steimel, Oliver Longcore, Egan Schippers), SSURT (Finley Lyster, Ben Stroup, Nick Schmittling) and JRC (Joshua Preuss, Remington Randall, Carter Torres).

Plainwell also had a presence on the national stage.

Team JRC—Joshua Preuss, Carter Torres and Remington Randall—was one of just six teams selected from more than 70 proposals representing 20 states to compete at the national competition April 13 in Savannah, Georgia.

The team placed fourth overall.

It marked the second straight year Plainwell Middle School has had a team qualify for the national competition.

Plainwell Middle School students excelled in the school's bridge building program. (Photos provided)s

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Allegan County Bar Association celebrates Law Day 2026

By Gari Voss

The Allegan County Bar Association will celebrate Law Day by hosting a Law Day Ceremony on Friday, May 1, 2026, at noon in the County Courthouse, District Court, Courtroom D. This year's Law Day will enhance the theme "The Rule of Law and the American Dream" as a reminder that because of the U.S. law, businesses can flourish.

The Bar Associations across America hope that everyone will recognize Law Day, and reflect on how the rule of law ensures that all Americans have the ability to fulfill their dreams. During the gathering, presentations will be made to the recipient of the Judge Corsiglia scholarship as well as the Liberty Bell Award.

The Honorable George R. Corsiglia Scholarship is awarded to Allegan County graduates who plan on pursuing legal, criminal justice, or social justice studies. The Liberty Bell Award is a prestigious honor given usually on Law Day to non-lawyers or organizations that strengthen the American legal system. These services promote an understanding of the law, the Constitution, and civil responsibilities which encourage civic engagement or improve justice.

For additional information, contact Court Administrator Laurie Tange at ltange@allegan-county.org.

The Liberty Bell Award will be one recognition given during the Law Day ceremony on May 1, 2026, at noon at the Allegan County Courthouse.

Street milling to begin in Wayland

By Joseph Schultz

An extensive milling project for the streets in the City of Wayland is in the works.

Wayland City Council members had a committee of the whole meeting on the subject Monday night and plans now call for the work to begin on Reno Drive at 133rd Avenue, eventually taking up a massive number of streets.

Milling a road is the process of removing the top one to four inches of old, damaged asphalt pavement using specialized machinery, such as a cold planer. It grinds the surface, corrects surface flaws (cracks, ruts), and creates a uniform, textured base for a new pavement overlay while recycling the old asphalt.

The city already has committed to new paving for Locust and Lorene streets in town, and the East Elm water main will be added at an extra cost of $122,000. City Manager Erik Wilson said $300,000 already has been set aside for the milling project, and two additional contributions and have been identified, one from the Downtown Development Authority for $40,000.

"There'll be a ton of milling for these streets," Wilson predicted.

In other business at Monday night's meeting, the council:

• Adopted a resolution approving a special use permit for Peace Church to move into share the Enterprise Marketing building at 965 Reno Drive. The Planning Commission last week have its recommendation to help the church solve its parking problems at its current location at the Lumberyard Events Center. Peace Church serves an estimated 200 to 220 parishioners.

However, Mayor Pro Tim cautioned Peace Church officials that "must be aware they're moving to ann industrial park."

• Adopted a resolution opposing the State Legislature's suggestion of pre-empting local zoning, maintaining it would erode local control.

• Approved adding the Elm water main to the Lorene and Locust paving projects scheduled for this year.

Editors Note: This story courtesy of TownBroadcast

Schaendorf selected as new Dorr trustee

By David Young

The Dorr Township Board Thursday night selected James Schaendorf as new trustee to succeed the recently resigned Chandler Stanton.

Schaendorf, heavily associated with Dorr's annual Fourth of July celebration, was chosen over Terri Rios and Gordon Lieffers. However, Lieffers has indicated he has filed to run for the seat in Aug. 4 primary election for a two-year term beginning Nov. 20 and ending in November of 2028.

Schaendorf will serve at least until Nov. 20 of this year and he is eligible to run for filling out the term in 2028.

He succeeds Stanton, who resigned abruptly in February, and who stepped down from his seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA post will be filled by Harry Smit.

Township Supervisor Jeff Miling, Clerk Debbie Sewers, Treasurer Sheila Reitz and Trustees Dan Weber and Pat Champion all voted to seat Schaendorf. Trustee John Tuinstra supported Lieffers.

In a related development, James Riemersma was appointed to a seat on the Planning Commission, which became vacant this week with the resignation of Chairman Dan Beute.

In other business at the the meeting, the Township Board:

• Adopted a proposed ordinance requiring concrete curb and gutter for certain private roads.

• Approved an increase in pay for maintenance employee Jay Ellens, from $21.09 per hour to $23.09 per hour.

• Denied a request for rezoning a parcel from agricultural to mixed use industrial because the property was surrounded by residential parcels and Moline Christian School.

• Adopted an ordinance prohibiting data centers from locating inside the proposed sustainable business park if it is rezoned to a planned unit development (PUD).

• Was told that a survey is being conducted on the Dorr-Moline page on Facebook asking for residents' opinions about Microsoft's proposal to locate a data center on two parcels within the township.

• Learned from Treasurer Sheila Reitz that Dorr Township owes the State of Michigan $24,135 because of an overlooked past debt.

• Was unable to avoid yet more commentary about prospects for a data center by tech giant Microsoft.

Michele Holcomb said, "We're sick and tired of it. We've been doing a lot more research than we wanted," adding she believes Microsoft is out "to micromanage human beings."

Laura Bird added, "We're fighting with each other because of this evil thing."

Another woman suggested adopting another noise ordinance and she insisted that Microsoft is counting on citizens not doing anything about the situation.

Editor's Note: This story courtesy of TownBroadcast

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Fennville's City Music Hall Series returns with nine nights of free music

By Art Nicholas

Summer evenings in downtown Fennville are about to get a whole lot louder — and the price couldn't be better.

The 2026 City Music Hall Series has officially announced its lineup, bringing nine consecutive Thursday night concerts to City Square, located at 116 S. Maple St. All performances are free and open to the public, running from 6:30 to 8:00 PM beginning July 2nd and wrapping up August 27th. In the event of rain, concerts will move indoors to the Fennville District Library.

The series kicks off on July 2nd with Sweet Dee & the Wild Honeys, followed by The Rebel Eves on July 9th and The Red Sea Pedestrians on July 16th. The fourth week, July 23rd, features a double bill with Flagship Romance and The Rough & Tumble sharing the stage. Molly closes out July on the 30th.

August opens with Djangophonique on the 6th, the genre-bending ensemble known for bringing a European flair to their performances. Caitlin Cusack Music takes the stage August 13th, followed by The Reverend Jesse Ray on August 20th. The series closes on August 27th with The Corn Fed Girls, a fitting send-off into the final days of summer.

A Growing Hub for the Arts

The concert series is the latest chapter in Fennville's quietly unfolding story as one of Allegan County's emerging cultural destinations. In recent years, the small city — home to roughly 1,400 residents — has seen a surge of investment in the arts and live music, fueled in part by its proximity to the Lake Michigan shoreline, its thriving farm-to-table food scene, and an influx of creative entrepreneurs drawn to its historic downtown corridor.

City Square, the series' home base, has become something of an informal town gathering place in warm weather months. The open-air venue draws locals and visitors alike, benefiting from Fennville's growing reputation as a weekend destination for travelers exploring the Fruit Ridge and wine country of southwestern Michigan.

The Fennville District Library's role as a rain backup also reflects a broader community investment in flexible public spaces. The library has increasingly positioned itself as a cultural anchor for the city, hosting events and programming that extend well beyond its traditional role.

A Vision for Community

City officials say the series is about more than entertainment — it's about identity.

"Fennville has always had a strong creative spirit, and this concert series gives that spirit a home. When you bring people together in a public space, week after week, with great music and no barriers to entry, you're building something that goes far beyond one summer. You're building a community. We're proud to offer this to every resident and visitor, completely free of charge, and we look forward to seeing City Square come alive each Thursday night." Stated Katie Beemer Fennville City Manager

Residents and local business owners are supportive the series and the new facility.

"Fennville's downtown business district features several businesses owned by artists, including musician Mark Schrock, whose connections help shape the high quality of our music series. While the community has enjoyed the music even with our old makeshift stage, the new amphitheater stage will make setup much easier for the artists. It will also provide the community with a better view and improved sound for our fantastic lineup." commented Rob Soltysiak, co-owner, Fernwood 1891

"I love watching downtown Fennville be revitalized and become the cultural hub it is shaping into." Added Dawn Soltysiak, co-owner, Fernwood 1891 and area resident

Something for Every Ear

The 2026 lineup reflects a deliberately eclectic programming philosophy. From the honky-tonk energy of Sweet Dee & the Wild Honeys to the gypsy-jazz stylings of Djangophonique; from the Americana warmth of The Corn Fed Girls to the indie-pop sensibility of Flagship Romance and The Rough & Tumble, the series makes no attempt to fit one mold. That variety, organizers suggest, is precisely the point — there's a Thursday night for everyone.

Concertgoers are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets and to arrive early to secure a good spot. Food and beverage options are available nearby in the downtown area. Parking is accessible along Maple Street and surrounding side streets. For updates on the series, including any schedule changes due to weather, residents can check in with the City of Fennville's official channels or call 269.561.8321

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Home Buying Tips for a Confident Purchase

Purchasing a home is one of the most significant financial decisions many people will make. With careful planning and a clear understanding of the process, buyers can navigate the market with greater confidence and avoid common pitfalls. Preparation, research, and patience often lead to better long-term outcomes.

One of the first steps is determining a realistic budget. Reviewing income, debts, and monthly expenses helps establish what can be comfortably afforded. Getting pre-approved for a mortgage provides a clearer picture of borrowing power and strengthens an offer when the right home is found. It also signals to sellers that a buyer is serious and financially prepared.

Location remains a critical factor in any purchase. Buyers should consider proximity to work, schools, shopping, and community amenities. Researching neighborhoods, property values, and future development plans can help ensure the investment holds its value over time. Visiting an area at different times of day can also reveal traffic patterns, noise levels, and overall atmosphere.

Working with a knowledgeable real estate agent can simplify the process. Experienced agents provide insight into local markets, help identify suitable properties, and guide buyers through negotiations. They also assist with paperwork, inspections, and timelines, reducing the likelihood of costly mistakes.

Home inspections are an essential step before finalizing any purchase. A thorough inspection can uncover potential issues with the structure, roof, plumbing, or electrical systems. Identifying concerns early allows buyers to request repairs or adjust their offer before closing.

Understanding the full cost of homeownership is equally important. Beyond the purchase price, buyers should account for property taxes, insurance, maintenance, and possible association fees. Setting aside funds for unexpected repairs can provide added financial stability after moving in.

Finally, timing and organization play a key role. Being prepared to act quickly while keeping documents and deadlines in order helps ensure a smoother transaction. By staying focused and informed, buyers can approach the process with confidence and make a sound long-term investment.

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Community Events

Event information can be sent to:
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Watch of these Events!

Apr. 29 – May 3, 2026: Vote for favorite Photos
Everyone can go online to vote for favorite photos submitted to the Allegan County Photo Contest.

Sign Up for Spring Wine Tasting, May 8, 6-8:30pm. The Silo, 1071 32nd St. (M-40S), Allegan.

Fri., May 1 & Sat., May 2, 2026, 10am-4pm: The Old Jail Museum. The Old Jail Museum Walnut Street Allegan

Fri., May 1 & Sat., May 2, 2026, 7pm: Kids vs Adults; Sun. May 3, 2pm: Kids vs Adults. Allegan Griswold Auditorium Hubbard St. Allegan

Sat., May 2, 2026, 12 and 6pm: Monster Truck Wars. Allegan County Fairgrounds 150 Fair Drive Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Apr. 29 – May 3, 2026: Vote for favorite Photos
Everyone can go online to vote for favorite photos submitted to the Allegan County Photo Contest.

Wed., Apr. 29, 2026, 11am-12:45pm: Ways to reduce taxes
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Register for a free workshop on Retirement Roadblocks – how to potentially reduce taxes. Questions: call 616 636-1673.

Wed., Apr. 29, 2026, 11am-3pm: House of the Rising Song Café
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan
Grab your instrument and join the jam or just come and listen and have lunch. Eat lunch, relax, refresh, repeat.

Thurs., Apr. 30, 2026, 12-2pm: Job Fair
Wayland High School 870 E. Superior, Wayland
Students from all over Allegan County are welcome to speak with potential employers.

Thurs., Apr. 30: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 year olds can drop in for stories and fun.
3:30pm: Teen Trivia Time – Grades 6-12 can drop in to test their knowledge on Pop Culture

Fri., May 1- Sun. 3, 2026: Spring Weekend Camp
Camp Kidwell 1st St. Bloomingdale
Ages can take time to relax and have fun. Register at https://www.campkidwell.org/.

Fri., May 1 & Sat., May 2, 2026, 10am-4pm: The Old Jail Museum
The Old Jail Museum Walnut Street Allegan
The Museum will be open on Friday and Saturday during the summer months. All are welcome to come and explore Allegan County's past.

Fri., May 1 & Sat., May 2, 2026, 7pm: Kids vs Adults
Sun. May 3, 2pm: Kids vs Adults
Allegan Griswold Auditorium Hubbard St. Allegan
Enjoy a round of One Act plays by the Allegan Community Players during the 12th Annual One Acts Festival.

Sat., May 2, 2026, 12 and 6pm: Monster Truck Wars
Allegan County Fairgrounds 150 Fair Drive Allegan
Join the pre-show pit party, meet & greet the drivers, plus ride in a real monster truck. Get tickets at www.monstertrucks.fun.

Sat., May 2, 2026, 4pm: Tammy's Retirement Party
Eagles 2315 Chestnut St. Allegan
The public is invited to join Tammy's celebration.

Mon., May 4, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
3:30pm: Make Your Own Space Saber. Ages 3 and up can register at 269 673-4625 to make a saber then duel.
6pm: Teen Game Night. Teens grades 6-12 can drop in for a night of digital games.

Tues., May 5, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 yr. olds can enjoy stories and activities.
6pm: Adult Beginner Yoga. All can register at 269 673-4625 to learn yoga with Deb Wiess-Gelmi.

Wed., May 6, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
3:30pm: Celebrate the Hands that Hold Us with Caregiver Cards! Drop in to create cards for loved moms, grandmoms or special caregivers.
6pm: Pintesting: Paint Your Own Birdhouse. Register at 269 673-4625 to create a lovely birdhouse.

Thurs., May 7, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. Ages 3-5 yr. olds can enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: Teen Nail Art Spa Day. Teens grades 6-12 can bring favorite colors and drop in and do nail art.
6pm: Great Lakes, Great Stories: Fatal Crossing. Register at 269 673-4625 to explore the mystery of the June 23, 1950 disappearance of Northwest Airline Flight 2501.

Fri., May 8, 2026, 6pm: Teen Nerf Night
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Students in grades 6-12 can drop in to duke it out in the stacks.

Fri., May 8, 2026, 6-8:30pm: Spring Wine Tasting
The Silo 1071 32nd St. (M-40 S.) Allegan
Purchase a ticket and enjoy wines and pairings. Get tickets at www.silobanquet.com or call 269 686-8383.

Fri., May 8 & Sat., May 9, 2026, 10am-4pm: The Old Jail Museum
The Old Jail Museum Walnut Street Allegan
The Museum will be open Friday and Saturday during the summer months. All are welcome to come and explore Allegan County's past.

Sat., May 9-10, 2026: Shipshewana on the Road. Allegan Co. Fairgrounds.

Sun., May 10 & Mon., May 11, 2026, 6-8:30pm: Auditions Theater in the Park
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
All are welcome to audition for the *Tales of O. Henry*, 4 short stories by O. Henry. Just drop in. The performances will be June 20 & 21 in Mahan Park. Info: allegancommunityplayers.org/auditions

Mon., May 11, 2025, 10am: Splish, Splash, Stories
Allegan Aquatic Center 1560 M-40 Allegan
Ages 0-7 can register at 269-673-7002 ext. 5504, or at ard.recdesk.com to enjoy a story and a fun swim.

Mon., May 11, 2026, 10am-noon: Garlic Mustard Pull with Conservation District staff
Armintrout-Milbocker Nature Preserve Thomas St. Allegan
Help week the invasive species in Allegan County. Bring gloves.

Tues., May 12, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 yr olds can enjoy stories and activities.
6:30pm: Book Club. Drop in and enjoy a discussion of *Nature's Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy with the Allegan Conservation District.

Wed., May 13, 2026, 2pm: Recess for Adults with the Arc of Allegan
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Drop in and enjoy activities with friends from The Arc of Allegan County.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

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Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
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Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
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Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Thursdays & Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Interfaith Sunday Services
Mothers Trust is a nonprofit that is offering inclusive, interfaith worship services open to all Sundays at 11am at 6676 122nd Ave. Fennville. Information: Megan Hybels 269 312-0369, megan_h@motherstrust.org

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
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Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/ valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Help Wanted

Allegan Township is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. The position will require office hours of Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm and four Saturdays during the year. The candidate should be professional in manner that works well with the public and a problem solver with proficiency in communication and computer skills. Basic understanding of clerical procedures such as typing, record keeping and filing are necessary. Interested candidates should possess organizational skills and have attention to detail.

Interested candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume to Supervisor Steve Schulz, Allegan Township, 3037 118th Ave., Allegan, Michigan 49010 or call 269-673-5051 with questions.

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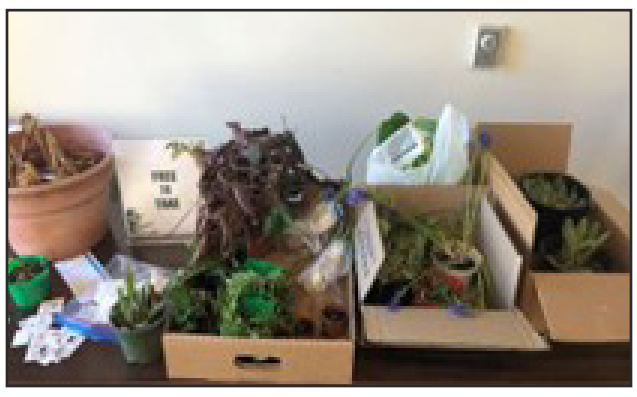
Fundraisers, new business highlight weekend activities in Allegan

By Gari Voss

.

The weekend of April 25-27 held special events that truly began on Thursday, April 24th. There were activities for all ages and included fun, fundraisers, Arbor Day celebrations and the opening of Another Mother Restaurant in Allegan.



Plant and Puzzle Swap. Photo courtesy of Allegan District Library

Plant and Puzzle Swap

The Allegan District Library had a great time with their Plant & Puzzle Swap the evening of Thursday, April 23, 2026! By the end of the evening, there were few leftover plants on the "free to take" table that were claimed within a short time on Friday!

Safe Harbor's 12th Annual Gala

Thursday, April 23rd, the Silo was a buzz with a full house as Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center hosted their 12th Annual Gala. As supporters arrived, DJ John Kloska furnished background music while Master of Ceremonies Jay Gibson encouraged the crowd to purchase their raffle tickets and try their luck on the wonderful array of prizes. As guests finished their dinner, Executive Director Lori Antkoviak brought the group's attention to the work of Safe Harbor in Allegan, Barry, and Van Buren Counties. In 2025, 7,146 children learned how to keep their bodies safe and seek help from trusted adults, 335 children participated in child-friendly forensic interviews as part of investigations, and 16 children in Allegan and Van Buren Counties were able to receive support from 5 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). The honorable Jolene Clearwater then highlighted the importance of the CASA program. These adults receive intense training and work on a volunteer basis to ensure that children receive consistency in their journey to being heard and cared for. The Buttons for Bravery Auction was led by auctioneers Bill TerAvest and helped add to the fundraising goal.

The Lifeline 2026 Awards were given to child advocates in memory of Trooper Ray Hoffman who dedicated his life to advocating for victims of child abuse

Arbor Day Celebration in Hanson Park

A great turnout of City of Allegan elected officials, staff, volunteer Public Spaces Commissioners, and community members gathered in Hanson Park where the Arbor Day 2026 tree was planted in Hanson Park behind the Griswold Auditorium and Allegan District Library. Along with celebrating Arbor Day, the City of Allegan celebrated 40 years of Tree City USA certification by the Arbor Day Foundation in 2026. The tree chosen is the Sunrise Emerald Elm that parallels the original Liberty Tree that stood in Boston, MA where patriots staged the first acts of rebellion against the British government. This recognizes the United States' 250 anniversary and the freedom of freedom, courage, and community.

Arbor Day Celebration in Hanson Park. Photo: Parker Johnson

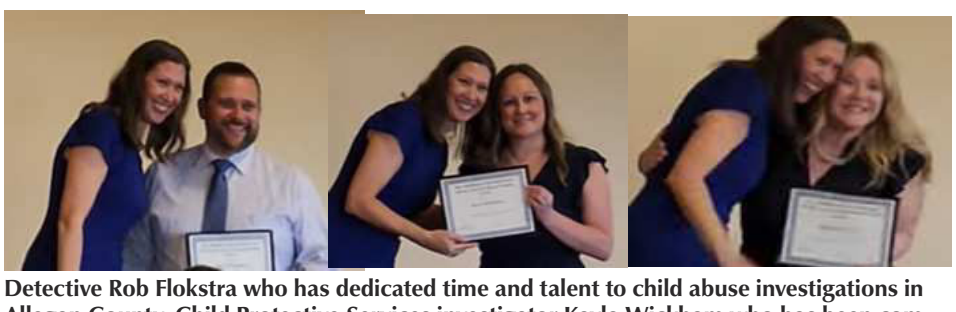
Allegan Conservation District Plant Sale

On Saturday morning, April 25, 2026, youth and adults visited the Allegan Conservation District headquarters to pick up preordered trees and bushes or just drop in to purchase from the stock on hand. There were activities for the children and lots of discussion between the adults and the ACD staff and volunteers. The variety of plants could be used in wetland to lawn environments, and there was an emphasis on choosing native plants rather than an invasive variety. With spring in full swing, the education and invasive species staff members where questioned regarding summer activities and upcoming workshops.

Grand Opening of Another Mother

Another Mother began the weekend with an invitation only gathering on Friday, April 24, 2026, then held their public Open House on Saturday, April 25th with a constant flow of patrons examining the menu inserted into the front pages of a hardcover book, sampling wonderful beverages, homemade entries, and homemade desserts. All interviewed in regard to the Friday and Saturday events had nothing but wonderful words for the unique drinks, the entrees, and the wonderful desserts like homemade carrot cake with homemade ice cream and homemade whipped cream. Touted as "Rooted in global street food and elevated with thoughtful technique, the experience is playful, flavorful, and social," the Wilkening duo has brought a fabulous new experience to Allegan.

Allegan Conservation District Plant Sale Photo: G. Voss



Detective Rob Flokstra who has dedicated time and talent to child abuse investigations in Allegan County. Child Protective Services investigator Kayla Wickham who has been committed to child safety and advocacy in Barry County. Assistant Prosecutor Rachel Keeley who has demonstrated compassion and held everyone to high standards to attain justice for children in Van Buren County. Photos: G. Voss

Grand Opening of Another Mother Photo: G. Voss

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SPRING 2026 Seasonal Solutions

How to keep your vehicle looking spiffy for spring

THREE RIVERS — Spring is here, which brings with it sunny weather, warmer temperatures, and more chances to get your vehicle out on the road.

However, for some people, the remnants of winter can still remain on people's vehicles – dirt, salt, and other materials may still be lurking – as the chokehold of colder temperatures and the perils thereof loosens its grip.

There are a few tips people can take to get their vehicles looking shiny, clean and presentable to shake off the winter blues and enjoy the fun and the sun in spring.

1. **Clean the undercarriage**: Sand, salt, dirt and other grime will likely still be lurking on vehicles during the season change, with the necessary materials to keep roads clear wreaking havoc if not treated. Taking your vehicle to a car wash that can perform a good undercarriage wash will be especially helpful this time of year to accomplish that. Barring that, using a garden hose could be optimal for washing off any residue.

2. **Deep clean the exterior and interior**: Sometimes a car wash may not be enough to get everything off your vehicle. That's when a good deep-cleaning can get that road residue off of the outside and inside of your vehicle. Waxing and washing on the exterior, and vacuuming and washing some interior items, such as floor mats, can help your car look brand-new for the season.

3. **Check your tire alignment and tire pressure**: With the colder temperatures comes the freeze-thaw cycle, which begets potholes, which can beget damage to your tire alignment. Getting your tires rotated at a tire center or body shop, like K&D Body Shop in Three Rivers, can get your alignment back on track. In addition, tire pressure can fluctuate quite a bit in the winter, due to how objects can expand and contract in lower temperatures. Checking your tire pressure in spring makes sure you don't just have inflated tires and a smooth ride, but can also improve fuel economy.

4. **Fix up any leftover winter damage**: There may still be leftover damage to your vehicle from winter's wrath, be it dents from hail, peeling paint from the snow, and other vehicle body issues. Going to a local body shop, such as K&D Body Shop in Three Rivers, to fix up that damage is a good first step to get the body damage fixed up.

With these tips, you can be sure to be ready to hit the road this spring with confidence, knowing your vehicle is looking in tip-top shape.

What to know about reseeding or replanting your lawn

weather, which can include drought and excessive rainfall and everything in between, can take its toll on a lawn. In certain instances, the best solution may be planting new grass. But homeowners can consider these tips before they begin the process of reseeding or replanting their lawns.

• Scarify the lawn. Scarifying a lawn can help to create a clean slate, but the timing must be right. Various lawn and garden experts, including those at BBC Gardeners' World Magazine, recommend scarifying in spring or early autumn. But don't jump the gun when scarifying in spring by scarifying before the lawn has started to grow after a dormant winter. Scarify when the soil is a little wet and the grass is once again actively growing. Scarfiying can remove any lingering weeds from last season and also pull up any moss that might have taken hold over the winter. Without weeds and moss to contend with, freshly planted seeds are in better position to thrive.

• Work with a landscaping professional. Homeowners with manageable lawns can likely scarify their own lawns with a relatively inexpensive plug-in scarifier. However, scarifying can be a strenuous physical activity, particularly for homeowners with large lawns. In such instances, homeowners can benefit from working

with a qualified landscaping professional. Such a professional can scarify the lawn and subsequently reseed or replant new grass. The latter task is not so simple, as the lawn care experts at Scotts¨ note that choosing the correct seed is a vital part of reseeding or replanting a lawn. Choosing seed may sound simple, but it's a potentially complex decision that requires knowledge of the existing grass, including when to plant it. Certain grasses are best planted in spring or early fall, while others are best planted in summer. A qualified landscaping professional can identify the existing grass and plan the seeding or planting around this important detail.

• Prepare to water the lawn. Watering is vital to the long-term success and health of freshly planted grass seed. Scotts¨ urges homeowners to keep the top inch of soil consistently moist, but not soggy. That requires a daily commitment, and setting a multi-function hose nozzle or sprinkler to the mist setting once per day or more if it's hot outside can increase the chances grass will grow in thick and strong. Scotts¨ recommends keeping the top two inches of the soil moist until the new grass reaches a mowing height of roughly three inches. Once that benchmark has been reached, watering frequency can be cut back to about twice per week, but now the soil should be deeply soaked instead of misted. The soaking will help roots grow deep into the soil.

Spring is a great time for homeowners in various regions to reseed or replant their lawns. With the right approach, homeowners can enjoy a full and lush lawn throughout summer.

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MDARD shares how to protect your lawn and garden from invasive pests

To mark National Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is calling on Michiganders to protect their landscapes and the state's natural resources from invasive pests this spring.

"Every gardener, landowner, and outdoor enthusiast can help protect the natural resources we cherish," MDARD Director Tim Boring said. "By staying informed, choosing native plants and local firewood, checking vehicles, and reporting suspected invasives, Michiganders play an important role in supporting MDARD's year-round monitoring and response efforts."

Unchecked invasive species can devastate native plants and wildlife, reduce biodiversity, compete for resources, and permanently alter habitats, making early awareness and action critical to protecting the environment. These unseen pests hitch rides on outdoor gear, vehicles, firewood and even everyday items like plants, soil, seeds and fresh produce, allowing them to move quickly into new areas.

Follow these simple steps to stop the spread of invasive pests:

• **Buy smart.** Purchase plants, seeds, and firewood from reputable, local or certified vendors to reduce the risk of introducing invasive pests or diseases.

• **Don't move firewood.** Buy firewood where you burn it and look for heat-treated or certified options to prevent spreading pests hidden in untreated wood.

• **Be mindful when traveling.** Check for pests before returning home. When traveling internationally, declare all food, plants and agricultural items to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

• **Check your vehicles and trailers.** Inspect your camper, trailer, boat, off road vehicle and tires any time you travel. Mud can harbor seeds, while invasive pests and their egg masses can hide on vehicles.

• **Choose native plants.** Support local ecosystems, provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife and reduce maintenance while limiting opportunities for invasive species to take hold.

• **Know what to look for.** Learn how to identify common invasive plants, pests and diseases in Michigan and report concerns to the Michigan Invasive Species Program. Early detection can significantly limit invasive pests' spread and impact.

"Healthy landscapes start with smart plant choices and proper care," Michelle Atkinson, Executive Director of the Michigan Green Industry Association, said. "Sourcing plants and materials from local, trusted and certified nurseries and garden centers helps ensure what you're bringing home is safe and responsibly produced. By choosing plants carefully and avoiding invasive species, homeowners can protect Michigan's environment while creating thriving, resilient gardens."

When Michiganders take simple steps to prevent the spread of invasive species, they become part of a larger, coordinated effort. MDARD, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, works to detect and manage invasive species across Michigan and relies on these joint efforts to help protect the state's environment and agriculture.

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• SAP MAPLE -1/4, 1/2, 3/4
• RED OAK -1/4, 1/2, 3/4
• WALNUT -1/4, 3/4
• WHITE OAK R&Q -1/4, 3/4
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• TIGERWOOD
• ZEBRAWOOD
• WENGE
4/4 THICKNESS. SKIP PLANED

Obituaries

Dwight Williams

Dwight Williams went to heaven peacefully on April 6, 2026, in Lake Panasoffkee, Florida. Born on February 17, 1957, in Plainwell, Michigan, Dwight was the son of late Alfred and Eunice (Bishop) Williams. Growing up in Martin, Dwight nurtured roots that he carried with him even after relocating to Florida nearly a decade ago. Dwight spent a remarkable 41-year career in sales with Egemin-Dematic, where his commitment and expertise earned him the respect and admiration of both colleagues and clients. Work was a central part of Dwight's life, reflecting his strong work ethic and passion for what he did. In his free time, Dwight enjoyed working around his house and cars, traveling and spending

Dwight Williams

time outdoors, following his alma mater, Western Michigan University, and he loved sporting events, especially baseball. Above all, Dwight treasured moments with his children and grandchildren, who brought him immense happiness and pride. Dwight is survived by his children: Jordan (Jeane) Williams, Brooke (fiancé John Moore) Williams, and Stacey Williams; grandchildren Kylie, Easton, Jayden, and Aaliyah; his siblings, Charlene (Marv) DeMann, Lois Smith, Karen (Dave) Misner, and Audrey (Pete) Mulder, along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. A celebration of Dwight's life will be held from 1-4pm, Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the home of his sister Karen and Dave Misner, 1623 3rd Street, Martin, Michigan. Contributions in memory of Dwight may be directed to Wreaths Across America at: www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/190851 Messages of condolence may be posted at www.WinkelFuneralHome.com.

Charles Stedman

Charles Stedman passed away on April 25, 2026, at the age of 84 from a heart attack. He was born April 26, 1941 in Berwyn, Illinois to Everett and Betty (Hyler) Stedman. He was the oldest of their four children. Charles was a graduate of Bloomingdale High School, class of 1960.

He was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother and friend. He will be missed deeply by all who knew him.

Charles was married to his loving wife Shirley (Blacksten) for an amazing 65 years! They met as children when Charles' family moved from Illinois to the Grand Junction, MI area where they attended the same school. Shirley used to let the air out of her bicycle tires near his house so he would help her fix the "flat" in hopes that she could catch his eye. Well, she did more than that,

Charles Stedman

she captured Charles's heart. They were married on June 10, 1960. They later moved to Allegan, MI where they raised their family. Charles was a farmer for over 30 years. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman as well as one of the handiest men you could ever hope to meet.

To quote our dad as he looked out with a big smile over the crowd of people gathered in their home to celebrate his then 80th birthday "Just look at what can happen when two people fall in love, we made all of that!"

Charles is survived by his wife, Shirley; their five daughters, Jane (Dan) DeJonge, Sheryl (Ray) Church, Sheila (Larry) Washburn, Rebecca Lundeberg and Melissa (Patrick) Borowiak; 13 grandchildren, Justin (Jane) DeJonge, Ashley (Cody) Crossman, Chelsea (Ben) Fitzpatrick, Charles (Ashley) Church, Samantha Burton, Vincent (Carly) Church, Jeremy (Bridget) Church, Lance (Becky) Washburn, Lee Washburn, Chase (Lydia)Washburn, Colin (Lauren) Washburn, Rylie Lundeberg, and Reese Borowiak; 18 great-grandchildren; as well as his brother, Dave (Vicky) Stedman; and, last but not least, his beloved dog, Buddy.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Roy Stedman; and his sister, Gail (Stedman) Lough.

The family will receive friends at Gorden Funeral Residence, Allegan Chapel, on Friday, May 1, 2026 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. The funeral service will begin at 1:00 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to the American Heart Association.

Eugene "Gene" Detweiler

Eugene "Gene" Detweiler – "Mr. D" to many of his former students – went to his heavenly home April 19, 2026, at the age of 90. Born at home in Eureka, Illinois, he was the second of three children. Growing up Gene enjoyed simple pleasures - ice skating on the pond across the street, listening to the Lone Ranger on the radio, and sneaking a stack of his grandma's home-baked cookies to his bedroom.

Gene learned carpentry by working in his father John Detweiler's construction company, where the slogan was "Better Built by Detweiler". Later in life, he shared those skills with his children and many in the Allegan community.

He lived in Eureka until he joined the Navy in 1956, where he served aboard the USS Wisconsin. He enjoyed his travels while serving, including helping to perform calculations for the ship's crossing of the Panama Canal, but later shared his disappointment in missing the chance to see Rome when his ship had to sail early.

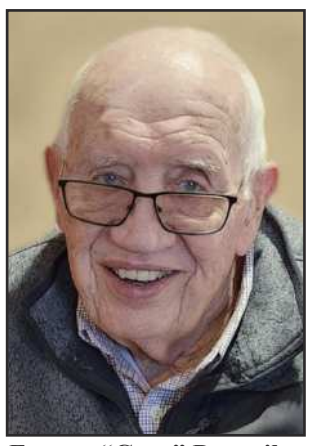
Upon return to Illinois, he earned his undergraduate degree at Bradley University and later earned his Master's degree in Industrial Education at Illinois State University.

In 1962, he married the love of his life, Gerda Milkeraitis, and a little over a year later they welcomed their first child, Gerri. He took a teaching position in Allegan, Michigan in 1965, where he taught architectural and mechanical drafting. Their second child, Gail, was born right after they moved to Allegan, and their son, Gary, came along four years later.

They bought a historic home on Cutler Street and spent the next fifty years fixing it up. Many of you will remember him reading a book on the porch swing or enjoying neighborhood kids playing on the horse swings he made.

Family was everything to Gene. He loved driving up to Fairview, MI for family reunions, and logged many miles visiting his grandchildren in Florida, Missouri, and Grant and Cedar Springs, MI. When he wasn't reading to them or cheering them on at their sporting events and graduations, he would find a project to work on around the house.

He loved teaching and was thrilled when a former



Eugene "Gene" Detweiler

student told him how much they enjoyed his class or used what he taught them later in life. He was a big believer in further education and was so pleased when one of his dear aides recently decided to pursue further schooling (which he probably attributed to his encouragement).

Gene and Gerda loved to travel, and just two years ago he realized a lifelong dream of a hot air balloon ride in New Mexico. It was an adventurous ride ending with landing on a residential street.

Faith was central to Gene's life. Raised in the Roanoke Mennonite Church, he was a longtime member of the Allegan Wesleyan Church, and later the First Baptist Church of Allegan. He demonstrated his faith through service, including spending a summer rebuilding homes after tornadoes in Kentucky, and numerous mission trips to Haiti.

Gene loved reading, gardening, cross-country skiing in the Allegan Forest, riding his bike, interesting architecture, historic markers, family adventures, bluegrass music, cookies, pie, and puzzles.

The family would love for you to join them for his Celebration of Life on May 30, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Allegan, followed by lunch and time for visiting. Bring your memories!

If you'd like to honor Gene's memory, read a good book. Perform an act of service. Thank a teacher. Reach out to a loved one you haven't spoken to lately. Or, eat a cookie in bed.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Educational Foundation for Allegan Public Schools or the Alzheimer's Research Foundation.

Gene is survived by his spouse, Gerda, children, Gerri (Kevin) Englund, Gail (David) Marriott, Gary (Kathi) Detweiler, grandchildren Sydney Englund, Christopher and Gretchen Marriott, Aaron (Courtney) Laitila, Thomas Laitila, Jill (Travis) Hirsch, and Alyssa Detweiler, great-granddaughter Quinn Laitila, sister Jennita Wright, sisters-in-law Sally Detweiler and JoAnn Milkeraitis, brother-in-law Ray Milkeraitis, and many beloved relatives and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Laura Detweiler, brother Gerald Detweiler, sisters-in-law Dorothy Detweiler and Emma Milkeraitis, and brother-in-law John Milkeraitis.

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On Friday, May 1, 2026, at 7pm, the kids' Alien Nation, where a substitute teacher encourages students to question what they learn, challenges Moving Back where adult siblings consider moving back with their mom.

On Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 7pm, Who's the Dummy Now? with life-sized "dummies" attempts to outwit Priceless that reunites two friends.

During the 2pm matinee on Sunday, May 3, 2026, oRANGE, finds girls sifting through desires to stay true to their colors when meeting girls demonstrating other ways to interact, vieing against We're Toast where time travelers crash into 2026.

To begin each set of one acts, Barnaby Bulldog and the Kittens, that explores how a clumsy bulldog searches for water and stars the youngest cast members, is paired with College Hunk Movers where the movers may not be in college or hunks.

The matches are set and the competition is fierce

By Gari Voss

The wait is over. The Allegan Community Players return Friday, May 1 through Sunday, May 3, 2026, with the 12th Annual One Acts Festival: Kids vs Adults at the Griswold Auditorium in Allegan. Friday and Saturday will offer 7pm shows while Sunday will feature a 2pm matinee.

The competition is fierce as a one act starring students goes one-on-one against a one act starring adults. The audience will weigh in during intermission each evening to determine the winner with the losing team having a consequence.

Come early and enjoy refreshments in the Marilla Lounge. The Griswold Auditorium doors open 30 minutes before the curtain rises. Tickets are $10 in advance or $15 on the day of the performance. Tickets can be purchased at alleganplayers.ludus.com.

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise

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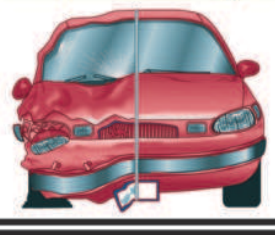

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Let's keep data centers in industrial areas

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

If solar panels and windmills weren't enough, the newest intrusion to our lands and quality of life is the need to grow the number of data centers in America and Michigan exponentially. And that has created a frenzy among the general public who is resisting the location of a data center near them.

It has become a hot topic at township meetings pitting board members who see the need and homeowners that demand the data center be built elsewhere. So hot that board members have resigned and residents are demanding recall in some areas.

Data centers are the quiet backbone of modern life. Every email sent, movie streamed, bank transaction processed, or GPS route calculated depends on vast networks of servers humming away somewhere out of sight. Without them, the digital economy simply doesn't function. Now that AI has many everyday uses the need for more data centers is critical. The question isn't whether we need data centers—we absolutely do. The real question is where they belong.

Too often, the answer has been "wherever land is available," including near or within residential neighborhoods. That's a mistake. While data centers may not look like traditional heavy industry, they share many of the same characteristics: constant energy demand, significant heat output, large physical footprints, and the need for round-the-clock operation. Those traits make them far better suited for industrial zones than residential ones.

For residents, the downsides are real. Data centers rely on massive cooling systems, which generate persistent noise—sometimes a low hum, sometimes a mechanical whir—that doesn't stop at night. Backup generators, tested regularly, add another layer of disruption. Increased traffic during construction and maintenance phases can strain local roads never designed for that kind of use. And while these facilities are generally safe, their sheer scale and infrastructure needs can alter the character of a neighborhood in ways homeowners didn't sign up for.

Industrial areas, on the other hand, are designed for exactly this kind of activity. They already accommodate higher energy use, heavier infrastructure, and 24/7 operations. Power grids in these zones are often more robust, reducing strain on residential supply. Noise expectations are different, and the surrounding land use is compatible with large, utilitarian buildings that prioritize function over aesthetics.

There's also a planning advantage. Concentrating data centers in industrial zones allows municipalities to better manage infrastructure upgrades, from electrical substations to fiber connectivity. It creates opportunities to cluster related industries, improve efficiency, and even plan for shared cooling or energy solutions. Trying to retrofit residential areas for these needs is not only inefficient it's avoidable.

None of this is an argument against technological growth. In fact, it's the opposite. If communities want to support the expansion of cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and digital services, they need to place the infrastructure wisely. Poor siting decisions can spark backlash, slow development, and create unnecessary conflict between residents and developers.

Data centers are essential. But essential doesn't mean they belong everywhere. Like factories, warehouses, and logistics hubs, they should be located where their impact is expected, managed, and appropriate. Industrial zones aren't just an option—they're the right fit for a technology that powers our lives but doesn't need to live next door.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

The U.S. Postal Service announced April 9 first-class stamps would rise from 78 to 82 cents July 12. Not good news but inflation is touching everything.

The problem is people are buying fewer stamps because we are sending fewer first-class letters. The good/bad news is we've been able to buy Forever Stamps almost since, well, forever.

Olds like me remember first-class stamps costing 3 or 4 cents. When the price rose to a nickel we had to buy 2-cent stamps to paste alongside the 3.

Now Forever Stamps bought years ago automatically rise in value and are still good to use — a nice bonus to hoarders, even if they never use the Forever Stamps.

All of which is a losing business for the post office because we are sending far fewer letters now. The 112 billion pieces of mail we sent in 2024 is only about 60 percent of its peak year in 2006.

This drop is just the first-class sector, at least for now, as prices have also steadily climbed for increased for packages and what we call junk mail. That includes all catalogues, political ads and more. Because this is an election year, we'll see an extra dollop of third-class mail.

Meanwhile, costs for sending all that mail, including pensions and other benefits for employees, continue to increase. It is no wonder we've been warned services will continually be cut back or deleted.

We Olds might recall when mail was delivered in business districts twice a day. That ended decades ago. So did using the local post office as a bank to save money. We spent dimes and quarters to buy government savings stamps that could be cashed out or used to buy savings bonds. Gone now too.

It's a vicious cycle: The more it costs to mail a letter, the more we rely on email as The fewer letters we send, the fewer stamps we buy, the more the USPS goes deeper into debt and in turn must raise prices.

There is nothing new about this struggle. When Ben Franklin became our first Postmaster General, there were branch offices in many cities and small villages. The difficulty was the time it took for a letter to get from one city to the next. Top speed was that of a horse or person walking. There was always uncertainty whether pieces would arrive or not.

The War of 1812 changed things, at least in Europe. Letters were sent to Washington, D.C., by sailing ships, then to the front lines. Tragically, the news did not reach General Andrew Jackson until after his soldiers had wiped out hundreds of young British soldiers in the Battle of New Orleans. The only good thing that came out of that blunder was Johnny Horton's 1959 hit song about it.

After Samuel Morse patented his telegraph in 1837, Morse Code, using sets of short dots and long dashes for numbers, words, et.al. became the gold standard for transmitting messages. Now, it is used mostly by few amateur radio enthusiasts who like archaic equipment.

In 1844, when the infrastructure was in place, Morse sent the first non-experimental message on a line between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., asking the apt question "What hath God wrought?" The wire was only 12 miles long, but the message was sent in seconds instead of a fast rider on a horse needing several hours. Well before the start of the Civil War in 1861, telegraph lines were strung across much of the country.

Western Union, as Morse's company became known, crisscrossed the country, but didn't kill off the Post Office. It did, however, kill off the privately-owned Pony Express Co. that promised delivery of a letter between fewer than two weeks. They could not fight the competition of the telegraph and railroad mail cars carrying letters.

Telephone calls and telegraph messages were expensive; stamps were cheap in comparison, thus the Post Office continued to expand. Then came the internet, one more game-changer. It still is, and until something new and better comes along, we will rely on low-cost phone systems and the internet.

Still, many us have a nostalgic fondness for mail. Remember when you were quite young how a genuine letter, with a stamp affixed in the upper righthand corner, addressed to you, suddenly propelled you into quasi-adulthood? It was special. For decades, we cheered the hearts of others, as they did us, with birthday, anniversary and Christmas cards.

My late wife Pat and I used to send more than 200 cards every December; a quarter century later it was down to 60. I suspect the trend will continue. We began receiving almost as many e-greetings as cards delivered to our mailbox.

Should you want to hear from the younger generation too addicted to their devices, take these three steps.

• Write them a letter reminding them inheritances are earned, not a birthright.

• Tell them to enjoy the $50 bill you are enclosing, and

• Sign off with "Love, from your not-yet-dead rich uncle/aunt/parent."

That should entice them to buy a few postage stamps this year.

There is another reason the USPS is in trouble. Just after the first postage stamps were issued in 1847, the new hobby of stamp collecting began. Young boys, who yield to the temptation of collecting almost anything from autographs to rocks, started competing with each other for who had most stamps.

Soon the corner of four stamps with the sheet number, or the "plate block," caught our attention, along with First Day Covers. For the obscenely wealthy, a full a $2 sheet of mint stamps and more could be added to their collections. Soon the then-Olds got into the act.

Publishers, realizing there was a new market for stamp albums, then stamps from around the world, expanded the offerings. Parents liked the hobby because it kept their kids off the streets and out of mischief.

One of The Olds in my hometown, Mr. Moore, ran a travel agency and was forever getting letters from all over the world. About once a month I would stop by and he'd pull out a packet of stamps. Together we would go through them, and he'd talk about each country or the design on the stamp, giving a history and geography lesson.

From my stamps I learned more about a country's history, people and culture than anything a teacher taught in school. The Olds were sneaky that way.

For a while, stamp collecting was all the rage. President Franklin Roosevelt was an avid collector. So was King George V, who had what many claimed as the largest and most valuable collection in the world by the time he died in 1936. Winston Churchill, however, despised the avocation, thinking a hobby for boys was a waste of time for a monarch.

I am pleased stamp collecting, or philately. has made at least a partial comeback. I have inherited five albums from departed friends and family, plus plastic tubs of stamps. Maybe they took advantage of my inability to throw things away.

I'm one up on them because somewhere there is a fortune waiting to be found. And it is a perfect avocation for cold, wet days.

Meanwhile, I'll groan like the next person about the cost of stamps, but I'm glad they are still around.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Arts Council appreciates contributors

Dear Editor:

They say it takes a village – but for the Allegan Area Arts Council's Art in the Garden, it took a city! The support from the City of Allegan started with our generous sponsors: Waanders Concrete, Tibbitts Financial Consulting, Armintrout's West MI Farms, TKH Group, Scott's Landscape Management, Wolf Law Group, Allegan Eyecare, Edward Jones-Rob Marciniak, Hartman-Ellis Agency, Dr. David Seifferly DDS, State Farm-Sarah Ainsworth, Kinard Financial and Weichert Realtors Platinum Group who made this event possible. It continued with the many businesses who donated numerous baskets, unique items and gift certificates for our record setting array of silent auction and raffle items. And it carried on with the committee members and their friends who created, painted, arranged and wrote poetry! We hope you didn't miss the Iron Bridge Strings and Whiskey & Wine as they delighted us with their playing and singing talents. Outstanding entertainment! We are so fortunate and very appreciative to have this collective heartfelt support from all of the above!

A huge 'Thank You' to all of the community members that came to our event and supported our artists, brought their children to try our Creative Corner projects, and bid on our silent auction/raffle items! The proceeds from Art in the Garden go toward art camp scholarships for 8th - 11th grade students in Allegan County to further their art interests and talents.

Allegan Area Arts Council

Before the Buses came

A century ago, one-room schoolhouses were everywhere—more than 200,000 dotted the countryside across the United States. From the 1920s through the 1960s, especially after World War II, thousands of them were shuttered, with children moved into single-age classrooms. The reasons most often cited were standardization, efficiency, improved transportation, and the conservation of resources. All good rationales—though some could argue, and perhaps rightly so, that it was also a way to produce obedient soldiers and factory workers.

Michigan held onto its one-room schoolhouses longer than many states. It wasn't until 1964, with the passage of Public Act 289—often called the School District Reorganization Act—that districts were pushed toward consolidation.

And even then, Allegan held on.

Every morning in the mid-1960s, a young teacher with a gentle, steady nature would sit at the blue piano in the back of one of those classrooms and play *"Come to the Church in the Wildwood."* Her students would all chime in:

Come to the church in the wildwood,
Come to the church in the vale.
There is nothing so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the vale.

I don't remember deciding to love that song, but I clearly did. Especially, when the chorus arrived and the big boys—the twelve-, thirteen-, and fourteen-year-olds—would take over, and sing *"Come, come, come"* in clear, beautiful, deep voices.

I got those same big boys in trouble once.

My mother was preparing to give birth to my brother, her last child, and was not paying much attention to me. I set about teaching myself to whistle. I practiced every day without success.

Then one day, after finishing my math, I managed it—a loud, sweet, perfect whistle that rang through the entire classroom.

Everything stopped.

"Who?" the teacher asked, looking at all the big boys, "did that?"

Honest lads all, none of them would come forward.

My eight-year-old self sat quietly watching. It's one thing to blow a pure, sharp, clean whistle. It's a whole other thing to take the fall for it.

Another time, we were making kites to fly as a class. I noticed something was missing - string. Without thinking much of it, I crossed the street to the corner store by myself and bought a whole case of spools of string - one for every child.

"Put it on our tab," I told the storekeeper, Mrs. Brown.

She called my mother, who spoke with our teacher. And, I walked those spools back across the street to the store. It turned out one was more than enough.

That's how it worked back then. Mrs. Brown knew us. She knew the teacher. She knew our parents. She knew who we belonged to and who to call when an overconfident eight-year-old showed up ready to supply the whole school.

That web of care was evident whenever the school put on a production. The entire community would come. I remember parties with giant containers of ice cream wrapped in canvas, carried in and shared among a collection of neighbors as if it were the most natural thing in the world.

Then it was gone—the schools and then later the stores.

Consolidation felt like a rupture - a tearing away from everything familiar, from the place where I felt safe. Looking back, I can say that it was a traumatic event for a nine-year-old to be pulled away from everything she knew, to ride a bus for an hour, and see her siblings, friends, and neighbors split up and sent to different classrooms in different schools.

We often talk about what we are gaining with progress. We don't often name what is lost.

I've been thinking about that a lot lately.

A few weeks ago, I attended the Art in the Garden show and stopped at Karen Rambadt's booth. I shared the story of that classroom and the song—*Come to the Church in the Wildwood.*

She listened.

Then she went and found the music in an old hymnal and created a piece of art for me.

Just like that.

She took something I had carried quietly for years and made it visible—something I could see, something I could hold.

It made me think about how much of what we've lost was never written down.

As part of our *Come to the Table* outreach initiative, we've been mapping the food system as it exists today—Dollar Generals scattered across the county, food pantries doing their best to meet need, and farms working to stay afloat.

But recently, the question shifted.

Farmer and educator Amy Buskirk, who works with ValleyHub, said something that stopped me: "I realize that my students have no idea what a decentralized food system looks like. Map that."

So we are.

In partnership with AARP and the Allegan Historical Society, we've begun the work of mapping what our food system looked like 50 or 60 years ago—when small stores, local farms, and community relationships were woven together in ways that are harder to see today.

If you have stories—of the corner stores, the farms, the people who knew your name and your family—we would love to hear them. Please share your stories and memories with us at 269-355-1335 or by mail at Allegan Food Alliance, 311 South Fair St., Otsego, MI 49078.

Because what we remember may help shape what comes next.

Mary Coburn

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The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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Letters to the Editor

Lake Allegan Association board supports Consumers dam sale

Dear Editor:

We are members of the Lake Allegan community. We live on the shores of Lake Allegan, a 1,587-acre impoundment made in 1936 by the Calkins Bridge Dam. Our lake is a sanctuary for a diverse population of wildlife: 97 bird species, including herons, kingfishers, sea gulls, ducks and geese, as well as two species of endangered mussels, one endangered butterfly, turtles, bluegill, catfish, bullhead, and northern pike, and of course a couple of dozen carp. Often, when we are on the water or in our yards, we stop to watch bald eagles soaring overhead or perched high up on a tree branch. Life on Lake Allegan epitomizes our state's motto: Pure Michigan.

From left: Stacey Harbor, Tim Miller and Coco Soodek are board members of Lake Allegan Association Inc., an organization devoted to the care, improvement and conservation of Lake Allegan. (Courtesy photos)

Since the lake's founding in 1936, thousands of people have invested in the surrounding land, desirable for its gorgeous vistas and access to the city of Allegan, the resort towns Saugatuck and Douglas, and the more urban Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. Our 22 miles of shoreline are lined with docks, boats, jet skis, barbecue pits, and playgrounds, used by families made up of young marrieds and four-generation homesteads. Visitors and residents take advantage of the lake's stable water levels to swim, fish, sail, ski, and recreate. There is a particularly robust, devoted fishing community that is made up of people from across the state.

The proposed sale of the 13 dams from Consumers Energy to Confluence Hydro is being challenged partially on grounds that the interests of the people who live around these lakes are irrelevant and subservient to the need to purify the rivers to return them to their natural state. This shortsighted view demeans and devalues the lives, livelihoods and liberties of the people who have made these lakes their home.

This is not merely an emotional argument. Our community, and the Allegan community at large, risk significant economic consequences if the dam is removed.

Based on public tax records, the market value of Lake Allegan frontage and backlot properties is approximately $124 million, generating $2 million in property taxes in 2022. Owners of Lake Allegan-adjacent property pay 45% of Valley Township's tax revenues.

Our analysis, drawn from a parcel-by-parcel review, shows that a 30% loss of frontage-property value, coupled with a more conservative 10% backlot value loss, would reduce annual property tax revenues by more than $500,000 — of which some $338,000 would no longer go to our schools. Moreover, this loss does not include lake owners' and users' contributions to area businesses, which would be casualties of the economic domino effect should Calkins Bridge Dam be removed.

Lake Allegan is not the only community exposed to economic dam-removal jeopardy. We are in active dialogue with leaders from dam communities across the state. Consistently we are told that if the dams were removed, the tourism and second-homeism that support lake and pond communities would evaporate. Imagine the ripple effects of destroying a dozen local economies across Michigan. Schools, hospitals, businesses… the economic ecosystems of our communities would collapse. The State — having broken these communities — would have to step in to fix them.

It is fitting that retaining a man-made lake requires stewardship by men and women. To keep Lake Allegan, we need a party that owns our lake and the dam that creates it. We have long worked with Consumers Energy as our landlords and stewards, sometimes happily. We know that Consumers Energy desperately wants out of the hydroelectric power business; we prefer an enthusiastic landlord rather than one who is just not that into us. We believe we have found that with Confluence Hydro.

We have had several meetings with all of the senior leaders of Confluence Hydro, including scientists, a lawyer and the person who lives and breathes hydroelectricity. We approached them skeptically and were ready to oppose their purchase of our lake and Calkins Bridge Dam. But, in spite of our resistance, we liked them and feel confident in their ability and willingness to take, safeguard, improve and carry on the work of generating power at Calkins Bridge Dam and managing Lake Allegan. We found them passionate about renewable energy, including this strange, ancient version.

They have told us they are in this for the long term, not just the 5-10 years before us. They have assured us that this is not merely a buy and flip transaction. They have traveled to meet with us, taken and answered our questions, and have committed to serving as a responsible, responsive steward of the ecology and community in and around Lake Allegan.

We're with Confluence Hydro, and we urge the Michigan Public Service Commission to approve the sale.

This commentary was written by the Lake Allegan Association board members Carol Doeringer, Maureen Esposito, Stacey Harbour, Tim Miller, Angela Parsons, Coco Soodek, Carol Zigulich and Phil Zigulich. It is republished courtesy of Bridge Magazine.

Why I Support the Hopkins Bond Proposal

Dear Editor:

I'm writing because Hopkins Public Schools gave me my first professional job, and I want the next generation of Hopkins kids to get the same kind of start I did. The 2007 bond paid for the 1:1 computer initiative I learned on and the virtual learning it made possible. It also funded the district technology department where I got my start: work-study during the school year, summer employment, and a full-time position after graduation that I held for years. That job launched my career, and I'm fairly certain I wouldn't be where I am today without it.

I also had Scott VanBonn for 7th grade science when I went through middle school. He's the district's superintendent now, and has been an educator for 25+ years. Scott lives and breathes Hopkins Public Schools, and always has. That's the kind of leadership running this district.

Today I'm the CFO for Charlotte County Public Schools in Florida, helping oversee 20+ schools, more than 18,000 students, and a budget over half a billion dollars. Capital planning for a public school district is what I do for a living, and that's why I'm speaking up, even though I can't vote on this bond myself. The taxes-should-go-down argument The strongest objection I've heard is that the 2007 bond is retiring, so taxes should drop rather than stay flat. That's a fair point, and it deserves a real answer. Infrastructure doesn't pause when we do. Roofs age, HVAC fails, boilers give out, fire panels go out of code. The real choice in front of Hopkins isn't whether to fund a bond. It's whether to plan for the work or pay for it in emergencies.

I've worked that problem before. Before Charlotte County I was at DeSoto County Schools (FL), which has some of the oldest school facilities in the state. Their current capital work is replacement, not upgrades, because maintaining systems that far past useful life had become more expensive than just replacing them. That's what happens when a community waits. Replacing the major building systems (HVAC, chillers, boilers) in a building the size of Hopkins Middle can run several million dollars. When one of those goes down in February, nobody competitively bids it. You write the check.

The upside to planned replacement is that modern equipment runs significantly more efficiently than what it replaces, which lowers operating costs for years afterward. I read the district's audited financials Because "trust me, I'm a CFO" isn't an argument, I pulled Hopkins' most recent audit, the report for the year ended June 30, 2025. It's a clean audit. Unmodified opinion. No material weaknesses. The books are credible and the controls work. The district is running lean. The Board targets a 15% fund balance; actual is 13.06%. The general fund ran a small deficit last year. Enrollment is still below the pre-pandemic peak of roughly 1,660. It was 1,442 this fall. Federal safety grants are winding down. The district expects to borrow about $2.78 million in state aid notes just to manage cash flow through the coming year. None of that is alarming on its own. It's a pretty typical picture of a well-run rural Michigan district.

But it tells you something important: there's no hidden reserve the district could tap instead. The sinking fund generates about $632,000 a year. That's a fraction of what it costs to replace the major systems. Replacing the middle school itself or a major system out of operations funding isn't a tough decision. It's mathematically impossible. Without bond funding, the district's only real option is to piecemeal repairs together as things fail. Patch what can be patched, defer what can't, and absorb emergency costs that always come in higher than planned replacement. Classrooms end up a little worse every year. Parts of the middle school are over 90 years old.

Waiting for a better economy doesn't make concrete, steel, or interest rates cheaper. The safety pieces (fire alarms, PA systems, building security upgrades) aren't window dressing. Those are the systems that work, or don't, when something goes wrong. I was a band geek and a performing arts center would have meant something to me. I was also a business student and a tech work-study kid, and those investments meant just as much.

A public school's job is to build the environment where any student can find what lights them up. You don't know at thirteen who's going to turn out to be the musician, the welder, the engineer, the teacher, or the CFO. Hopkins is chosen Michigan is a school choice state. Families around Hopkins have other options, and plenty of nearby districts would be glad to take Hopkins students. They choose Hopkins because this district is the heart of the community.

As a CFO, I can tell you that enrollment equals revenue. When districts let their facilities slide, the families with choices start making different ones. Once that starts, it's hard to reverse. Give them a reason to keep choosing Hopkins.

My ask I know what it looks like when a community invests in its kids, because I'm one of them. And I've rebuilt enough aging facilities in my career to know what it looks like when a community doesn't. Hopkins' own books show the district can't solve this one alone. The bond is the only mechanism that's big enough.

I can't vote on May 5. I live in Florida now. But if I could, I'd vote yes. I'm asking Hopkins voters to do the same.

Marcus Allen, M.Ed., MBA
Hopkins Public Schools graduate
Chief Financial Officer, Charlotte County Public Schools (FL)

Elected officials need to listen

Letter to the Editor:

Politics goes beyond official positions, job titles, or conventional qualifications. For many, it's about being heard and represented by someone who listens rather than dominates the conversation.

Pat Miner, Allegan

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Mobile Secretary of State coming to Christian Neighbors

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Residents will have a chance to take care of Secretary of State business close to home when the Michigan Secretary of State Mobile Office visits Christian Neighbors on Monday, May 4.

The mobile office will be on site from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering a variety of in-person services typically handled at a branch office. The event is open to anyone in the community.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to schedule an appointment in advance. Appointments can be made by calling Kim Shafer at 269-685-4166, ext. 102, or by emailing kshafer@christianneighbors.org.

The Mobile Office is part of a statewide effort to bring services directly to residents, particularly those who may have limited access to a traditional branch office or reliable internet.

Visitors will be able to complete a range of transactions, including applying for or renewing a driver's license or state ID, transferring a vehicle title, renewing registration, registering to vote or updating voter information, and applying for or renewing a disability placard.

The mobile units are designed to set up in community spaces such as senior centers, shelters and partner organizations like Christian Neighbors, making it easier for residents to access essential services without traveling to offices in Allegan or Kalamazoo.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, community members can contact Christian Neighbors directly.

MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE
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Monday, May 4th from 10am-3pm
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For more information or to schedule your visit during this Mobile Office event, contact
Kim Shafer
at 269.685.4166 Ext. 102
kshafer@christianneighbors.org
MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE

Autumn VanLiere (left) and Beth Zartman were among the Otsego recipients of the Outstanding People for Education Award. Not pictured is Heather Sokoloski. (Photo provided)

OPS honors Outstanding People for Education recipients

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Three Otsego Public Schools staff members have been recognized as 2026 Outstanding People for Education honorees by the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency.

More than 40 staff members across the district were nominated for the annual award, which recognizes individuals who support the growth, development and success of students. Nominees can include anyone from teachers to support staff, with this year's pool featuring representatives from every school building in the district.

The award honors those who demonstrate excellence in their roles, provide leadership, support programs that impact education and go above and beyond in serving students and their school communities.

This year's Otsego recipients are Autumn VanLiere of Dix Street Elementary, Beth Zartman of Otsego Middle School and Heather Sokoloski of Otsego Middle School.

"These educators have gone above and beyond to create an environment where Bulldogs can thrive," the district said in a statement. "Thank you, and congratulations to this year's winners and nominees."

VanLiere, a behavioral health aide at Dix Street Elementary, was recognized for her consistency and care in supporting students and staff. District officials noted in the announcement that she has been "a steady, dependable presence" who takes initiative and plays a key role in keeping programs running smoothly.

Zartman, an English teacher at Otsego Middle School, was honored for the impact she has on students both academically and personally. In the district's release, she was described as "a true example of what teachers should be," helping students rediscover a passion for reading and writing while fostering a welcoming classroom environment.

Sokoloski, a math teacher at Otsego Middle School, was recognized for her leadership and commitment to students and colleagues. District officials cited her "expertise, innovation, collaboration and relentless, relationship-driven focus" as qualities that reflect the values of Otsego Public Schools.

According to the district, all three honorees exemplify a commitment to creating an environment where students can thrive.

Otsego holds public hearing on proposed water system improvement project

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Residents will have an opportunity to provide input on a proposed water system improvement project during a public hearing scheduled for Monday, May 4.

The hearing will take place during the Otsego City Commission's regular meeting at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 117 E. Orleans St.

According to city officials, the project would involve replacing existing lead water service lines with copper in accordance with the Michigan Lead and Copper Rule. The work is part of an ongoing effort to improve water quality and maintain the city's water system.

The proposed project includes the replacement of approximately 502 lead service lines throughout the city.

Typical construction-related impacts are expected, including noise, dust, disruptions to local road usage and temporary interruptions in water service. Officials noted those impacts would be temporary, with affected areas restored following completion of the work.

The total cost of the project is estimated at approximately $4.81 million. The average cost to users is projected to be about $5.54 per month.

Residents can review project plans at Otsego City Hall prior to the hearing. Written comments may also be submitted before the close of the hearing on May 4 to City Clerk Angie Cronen at City Hall or by email at acronen@cityofotsego.org.

Awards ceremony planned for Otsego public safety departments

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The City of Otsego will recognize members of its public safety departments and community residents during an awards ceremony scheduled for Monday, May 4.

The event will take place at the Otsego Fire Department, 117 E. Orleans St., with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and the ceremony beginning at 6 p.m.

According to organizers, the ceremony will honor members of the Otsego Fire Department and Otsego Police Department, along with local citizens, for their service and contributions to the community.

The event is open to the public.

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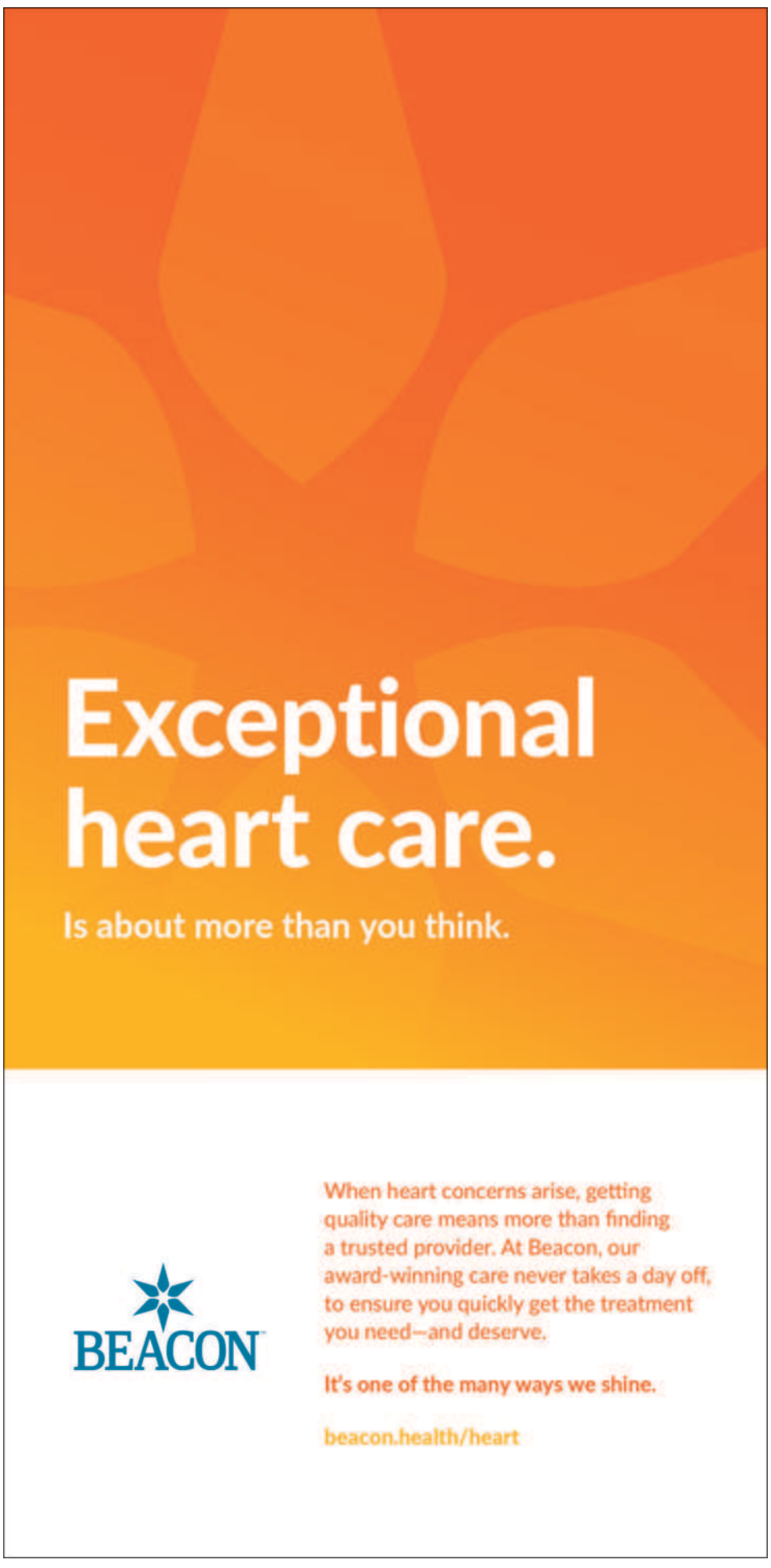
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Allegan tennis takes top honors at home invitational

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Allegan girls tennis team put together an impressive showing on its home courts, claiming the team title at the Allegan Tiger Invitational while facing a strong field that included multiple state finalists.

"It was a beautiful day for tennis, especially with some great teams traveling to Allegan," coach Damien Arthur said. "Flint Powers Catholic, No. 3 Traverse City St. Francis and No. 8 Father Gabriel Richard — all Division 4 state finalists in 2025 — joined us."

Despite the added distraction of prom later that evening, Allegan stayed locked in throughout the day.

"The girls had a lot on their minds yesterday, as it was Allegan's prom," Arthur said. "The anticipation and excitement of the evening's dance did not sway this group's focus. If anything, they ramped up their focus and intensity."

That focus showed, particularly in doubles play, where Allegan dominated. The Tigers swept all four doubles flights, with Madison Cook and Ireland Dewey (No. 1), Taylor Fuller and Hanna Kievit (No. 2), Sophia Augustine and Emma Scheffler (No. 3), and Kaylee Haas and Hailey Gauthier (No. 4) each earning championships.

"Most of our upperclassmen are on the doubles side of the lineup and they dominated the field," Arthur said.

The highlight of the day came at No. 1 doubles, where Cook and Dewey rallied for a dramatic championship win over Father Gabriel Richard.

"Maddy and Ireland were down 2-7 in the third-set tiebreak and rallied off six consecutive points to take an 8-7 lead," Arthur said. "The teams traded the next four points to make it 10-9, and we capitalized on a Maddy first serve to close out the match. A great win for those two ladies."

In singles play, Ava Thompson added to Allegan's success by capturing the No. 4 singles title—her first varsity tournament championship.

"Ava Thompson had a big day yesterday, winning the 4S championship—her first varsity tournament win," Arthur said.

Allegan also picked up runner-up finishes at No. 1 singles (Addy Fales) and No. 2 singles (Camdyn Drozd), while Kendall Halstead placed third at No. 3 singles.

The Allegan girls tennis team finished first at the Allegan Tiger Invitational on Saturday, April 25. (Photo provided)

Overall, the depth and balance of the lineup helped Allegan secure the team championship.

"Really proud of our team championship yesterday," Arthur said. "Looking forward to what we can accomplish for the rest of the season."

Allegan track teams shine at home conference meet

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

It came down to the final event.

And the Allegan boys track and field team delivered.

The Tigers capped a strong night by winning the 1,600-meter relay to secure a narrow victory over Bridgman, completing a sweep of their tri-meet Wednesday, April 22. Allegan also defeated Holland Black River in both the boys and girls competitions.

"It was a great night of racing, jumping and throwing for our Allegan Tiger track stars," Allegan coach Mike Chalupa said.

The boys edged Bridgman 67-59 and cruised past Black River 88-31, with depth and relay strength playing a key role throughout the evening.

Kellen Chalupa led the way with wins in both the 800-meter run (2:06.48) and 1,600 (4:42.11), while Thomas Sigler posted a personal-best time of 11:05.15 in the 3,200.

Allegan's relay teams proved decisive. The 800 relay team of Bradyn Kosiorowski, Brody McDade, Nathan Martinez and John DeLaet took first in 1:41.80, while the 1,600 relay team of Chalupa, Loghan Murphy, Kosiorowski and McDade sealed the meet with a winning time of 3:44.00.

McDade added a runner-up finish in the 100 (12.16) and placed third in the 200 (24.62), while Martinez turned in a strong 400, finishing second in a personal-best 56.39. Chase Clemons also recorded a personal-best 20.46 in the 110 hurdles and added a second-place finish in the 300 hurdles (51.47).

In the field events, Hauk Henrickson placed second in both the shot put (33-4) and discus with a personal-best throw of 100-3.

On the girls side, Allegan split its meet, defeating Black River 71.6-43.4 while falling to Bridgman 74-59.

Bailee Dilley put together a standout performance, winning the 100 (13.79), 200 (28.37) and 400 (1:02.09), while also claiming the long jump with a personal-best leap of 15-4.

Jayden VandenAkker added wins in the 100 hurdles (16.05), 300 hurdles (48.38) and high jump (4-8), while Anna Billman posted a personal-best 6:35.14 in the 1,600 and took second in the 3,200 (15:02.85).

The 400 relay team of Alyxandra Falor, Nevaeh Williams, VandenAkker and Aylah Copeland also earned a first-place finish in 57.71.

Additional strong performances included Williams, who placed second in the 100 (14.37) and third in the 200 (31.32), and Odessa Barnhart, who recorded a throw of 19-4 in the shot put.

Chalupa noted multiple personal-best efforts across both teams, highlighting the continued progress of the program early in the season.

Allegan's Kellen Chalupa prepares to hand off to a teammate during a relay race. (Photo provided)

Fennville softball prevails

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HOPKINS—The Hopkins softball team continued its strong stretch with a trio of decisive wins, including a shutout victory over West Ottawa on Wednesday, April 22.

Hopkins rolled to a 15-0 win in that contest, with Jorja Wood leading the way in the circle. Wood tossed three innings, allowing just one hit while striking out eight.

The victory came on the heels of a doubleheader sweep of Kelloggsville on Tuesday, April 21.

In the opener, Hopkins cruised to a 16-1 win behind a standout performance from Kelsey Burgess, who delivered both a triple and an inside-the-park home run. Gracie Stallard handled the pitching duties, throwing three innings and allowing just two hits while striking out six.

Hopkins followed that up with a 17-0 win in the nightcap. Kylie Williams contributed a double at the plate, while Wood returned to the circle and struck out seven over three innings, giving up just one hit.

Across the three games, Hopkins combined timely hitting with dominant pitching, outscoring its opponents 48-1.

Wildcats sweep past Covenant Christian

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GRAND RAPIDS—Behind a dominant performance in the circle from Madi Ludema, Wayland picked up a doubleheader sweep of Covenant Christian on Friday, April 24, winning 2-0 and 8-2.

Ludema was in complete control in the opener, tossing a shutout while striking out 11 to lead the Wildcats to the 2-0 win.

Wayland broke through in the second inning when Mackenzie Kositzky connected on a solo home run to right field. Ludema added insurance in the fourth, sending a solo shot to left.

Kositzky and Rae Stallard each had two hits to pace the Wildcats, while Ludema and Kositzky drove in the runs.

Kositzky carried that momentum into Game 2, helping lead an 8-2 win as Wayland pulled away early and never looked back.

The Wildcats opened the scoring in the first inning on an RBI single from Ludema, then broke the game open in the second. Kaylee Lown delivered an RBI single before Ludema followed with a three-run home run to center.

Kositzky led the offense with three hits, while Ludema finished with three RBIs. Clara Dutkiewicz and Shelby VanHouten also added multiple hits as Wayland totaled 13 hits in the game.

Kositzky earned the win in the circle, allowing three hits and two runs (one earned) over seven innings while striking out five.

The Wayland softball team swept a doubleheader against Covenant Christian on Friday, April 24. (Photo provided)

Hopkins baseball cruises against Kelloggsville

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

WYOMING—Hopkins left little doubt Tuesday, rolling to a pair of decisive wins over Kelloggsville in a non-conference doubleheader.

The Vikings opened the day with a 24-0 victory in a three-inning contest, breaking things open with an 18-run second inning.

Hopkins finished with 12 hits and took advantage of nine walks, while also capitalizing on Kelloggsville miscues.

Kellen Ford had a huge game at the plate, going 3-for-3 with a home run, a triple and seven RBIs. Michael Woollam added two hits, including a pair of doubles, while Trent Smith also had two hits, including a triple.

Cruz Hitzler, Justin VanWagner and Adam Halsted each added a hit as the Vikings got production throughout the lineup.

On the mound, Brayden Smigiel tossed a one-hitter, striking out eight over three innings to earn the win.

Hopkins kept the momentum going in the second game, earning a 15-0 win in another three-inning contest.

The Vikings collected 13 hits in the nightcap, with Ford again leading the way with three hits, including a home run. Halsted also had a big game, going 3-for-3, while Blake Schwartz added two hits and two RBIs.

Smith finished with two hits and reached base three times, and Woollam and Zeke Jankowiak each contributed hits as Hopkins continued its balanced offensive attack.

Halsted handled the pitching duties in Game 2, throwing a no-hitter with four strikeouts over three innings.

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ATHLETE of the WEEK

Veyda Conley
Martin
Girls Track and Field

Setting a school record is no easy task. But setting three school records in one evening?

That's exactly what Martin's Veyda Conley did on Friday, April 24, at the Kent City Invitational.

Conley won the 3,200 in a school-record time of 11:30.75. She also set the new school marks in both the 1,600 (5:16.03 to finish fourth) and the 800 (2:25.12 to finish third.)

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Saugatuck soccer gets past archrival Fennville

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—Rivalry matches tend to bring out tight, competitive play.

And the girls soccer matchup between Fennville and Saugatuck on Monday, April 27, was no exception.

In the end, it was visiting Saugatuck that came away with a 3-1 win, using a pair of penalty kicks and a corner kick goal to secure the result.

"The game started to look like it was going to be a standstill until less than 10 minutes remained in the half," Saugatuck coach Neal Phillips said.

That's when the Trailblazers broke through. After a foul in the box, Neave Rewa converted a penalty kick to give Saugatuck a 1-0 lead heading into halftime.

Fennville responded after the break, evening the score when Kimberley Mendoza-Huynh found the net off an assist from Candela Ruiz.

Saugatuck answered quickly.

Rewa put the Trailblazers back in front with a corner kick that curled into the net. And later in the half, Ellery Panapento drew another penalty that Avery Smith converted to provide the final margin.

"The girls move to 2-1 in the conference with the victory, aided by a stout defensive back line and three goals from and assists by our senior vets," Phillips said.

While the Trailblazers capitalized on their opportunities, Fennville coach Mark Gray was encouraged by his team's effort in a closely contested match.

"Saugatuck scored off two PKs and a well-taken corner kick," Gray said. "Outside of that it was a 50/50 game and I thought the girls battled well."

The win was the sixth straight for the 'Blazers over the 'Hawks.

Saugatuck also picked up a road win on Wednesday, April 22, traveling to Coloma and picking up the 8-0 decision.

The game was stopped early due to the mercy rule.

Smith started the scoring, followed by a goal from Jordan Sanders.

After that, according to Phillips, "the flood gates opened."

Claire Robb added two goals, with Rewa, Karmin Kruithof, Mariela Garcia and Ryann Monroe each chipping in with one.

"The defensive line did a great job keeping our senior keeper, Julia Lowery, bored in the net," Phillips said.

Fennville, meanwhile, claimed a 1-0 victory over Michigan Lutheran on Thursday, April 29.

Nidia Villalobos accounted for the lone goal off an assist from Alexandra Arredondo.

Leslie Hernandez made five saves in goal for the shutout.

Otsego tennis upends visiting Paw Paw

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—A strong showing in singles play helped the Otsego girls tennis team bounce back in a big way Monday, April 27.

Hosting Paw Paw, the Bulldogs secured a 5-3 victory, winning three of the four singles flights while splitting doubles play.

Otsego set the tone in singles, with Ellie Korringa (No. 2), Lydia Griffith (No. 3) and Alie Bronson (No. 4) each earning straight-set wins. Bronson was particularly dominant, posting a 6-0, 6-0 victory.

At doubles, the Bulldogs picked up wins at No. 1 and No. 2. Sara McCaw and Stella Houseman battled to a 7-5, 6-2 win at the top flight, while Mila Garrett and Hope Stender added a 6-3, 6-4 victory at No. 2.

Paw Paw claimed the No. 1 singles match and swept the final two doubles flights to account for its three points.

The win served as a solid bounce-back performance for Otsego following a 5-3 loss to Vicksburg on Thursday, April 23.

Hailey Burd had the lone singles victory for Otsego at No. 1 (6-0, 6-4). Winning at doubles were Garrett and Stender at No. 2 (2-6, 6-0, 6-2) and Laney Sweet and Rachel Breese at No. 3 (3-6, 6-2, 6-1).

Bulldogs baseball drops three games

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—The Otsego baseball team came up just short in a tightly contested non-conference matchup Thursday, April 23, falling 5-4 to Wyoming.

The Bulldogs outhit Wyoming 7-4 and had opportunities throughout, but couldn't quite overcome a late push by the Wolves.

Brennan Perry led the way offensively with three hits, while Nolan Whitmore and Leeland Longcore each drove in a pair of runs. Jaxon Ray added a double for Otsego.

The loss came a day after the Bulldogs dropped both games of a Wolverine Conference doubleheader at Edwardsburg, falling 11-1 and 12-1.

In the opener, Otsego was limited to one hit, coming from Matthew Jackson, while Perry scored the team's lone run. Merrill Bailey took the loss on the mound.

The Bulldogs collected three hits in the second game, with Perry accounting for two. Karl Hildebrand drove in Otsego's only run, while also taking the loss on the mound.

Otsego softball wins two against Wyoming

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Otsego softball team picked up a non-conference sweep Thursday, shutting out Wyoming before turning its attention to a tough conference doubleheader earlier in the week.

The Bulldogs opened with a 5-0 win, finishing with 11 hits while limiting Wyoming to just two. Audrey Lingbeek went the distance in the circle, striking out eight and allowing no runs.

Emma Zimmermann, Addy Lucas and Audrey Lingbeek each collected multiple hits to lead the offense, while Mikayla Bateman added a home run.

Otsego followed with a 10-0 victory, totaling 12 hits in the game. Addy Lucas earned the win, pitching five innings while allowing five hits and striking out five.

At the plate, the Bulldogs again saw production throughout the lineup. Alyvia Farrell had a big game with multiple hits, while Zimmermann, Lucas and Lingbeek continued to contribute offensively.

Earlier in the week, Otsego traveled to Edwardsburg on Wednesday, April 22, for a Wolverine Conference doubleheader.

The Bulldogs dropped the opener 11-3 despite recording eight hits. Farrell and Bateman each had strong games at the plate, while Zimmermann added a hit and reached base multiple times.

Otsego fell in the second game 11-1, managing two hits against Edwardsburg pitching.

Four area girls track teams compete at Kent City Invitational

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

KENT CITY — Four area girls track and field teams were among the 20 squads competing at the Kent City Elite Invitational on Saturday, April 26.

Of those, Plainwell turned in the top showing, placing third with 72 points.

Wayland Union and Martin tied for eighth with 26 points apiece, while Saugatuck finished 11th (23).

Plainwell was powered by a strong sprint group, led by Hailey Newcomb, who won the 100-meter dash in 13.25. She also teamed with Nyra Cross, Evangeline Coutu and Alayna Ranney to win the 4x100 relay in 51.37.

Ranney added another victory in the 200 (26.77), while Coutu (13.54) and Cross (13.64) placed fifth and eighth, respectively, in the 100.

The Trojans also picked up solid finishes in the middle distances. Mai Nguyen placed eighth in the 1,600 (5:29.56), while Molly Bruggink (2:42.00) and Quinn Hall (2:43.18) both posted personal-best times in the 800.

In the hurdles, Coutu recorded a personal-best time of 50.96 to place fourth in the 300 hurdles, and Ella Lapenna led a group of Plainwell finishers in the 100 hurdles.

Field event contributions included Sylar Luckett (7-6) and Lapenna (7-0) in the pole vault, along with Evangeline Coutu's third-place effort in the long jump (15-3.5).

Wayland Union's top highlight came in the field events, where Evie Mathis cleared 12 feet to win the pole vault. She also added an eighth-place finish in the long jump (14-8.25).

The Wildcats also received a third-place finish from Gwen Howard in the high jump (4-10), while Quinn Reeder (14.22) and Ryleigh Haveman (29.19) contributed in the sprints.

Martin's Veyda Conley turned in one of the area's top distance performances, placing third in the 800 (2:25.12) and fourth in the 1,600 (5:16.03), both personal-best efforts. She also won the 3,200 in 11:30.75.

Elsewhere for Martin, Torryn Harris helped the 4x800 relay team to a fourth-place finish (10:31.42), and Riley Bender led the Clippers in the field with a 4-4 clearance in the high jump.

Saugatuck was led by Alina Martinson, who won the 400 in 1:00.20 and also ran a leg on the runner-up 4x800 relay team (9:53.18) alongside Kamryn Sixberry, Ellyse Heyser and Lyvia Curtis.

Sixberry also contributed individually with a 1,600 time of 5:41.09, while Heyser (2:34.01) and Curtis (2:40.97) added top-15 finishes in the 800.

Bella Ketterer turned in a pair of personal-best efforts in the hurdles, including a 55.70 in the 300 hurdles.

Wayland golf competes at Capital Area Showcase, places ninth

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BATH—The Wayland Union boys golf team took on a loaded field and a demanding course Monday, April 27, finishing ninth at the Capital Area Showcase at Eagle Eye Golf Course.

Competing against 16 teams, the Wildcats posted a team score of 351 on a layout that stretched close to 7,000 yards and played even tougher with steady winds throughout the day. Jaden Osterhout led Wayland with an 83, followed by Shane Koon (87), Carson Sipkema (89), Brayden Calkins (92) and Hustler Sok (98).

"The course played at almost 7,000 yards with a strong wind fighting the players all day," Wayland coach Allen Curtiss said. "Today was a work day — when it is not pretty but you still do whatever you have to do to get around a very tough Eagle Eye track in as few strokes as possible."

Despite the challenging conditions, Curtiss liked what he saw from his group.

"I'm very proud of how hard our boys competed," he said.

Earlier in the week, Wayland competed in OK Gold Conference Jamborees No. 3 and No. 4 on Thursday, April 23.

The Wildcats opened the day with a fourth-place finish at Yankee Springs Golf Course, shooting a 169. Brayden Calkins paced the team with a 41, while Jaden Osterhout and Carson Sipkema each added 42s. Shane Koon carded a 44, Hustler Sok shot a 46 and Nick Winchel finished with a 49.

Wayland improved in the afternoon session at Orchard Hills Golf Course, placing third with a 155. Levi Moore led the way with a 37, while Koon and Sipkema each shot 39. Osterhout added a 40, Calkins finished with a 42 and Sok rounded out the scoring with a 42.

The two conference rounds, combined with the experience at Eagle Eye, provided another step forward for a Wayland team continuing to find its footing against strong competition.

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Saugatuck track teams sweep dual matchups at home

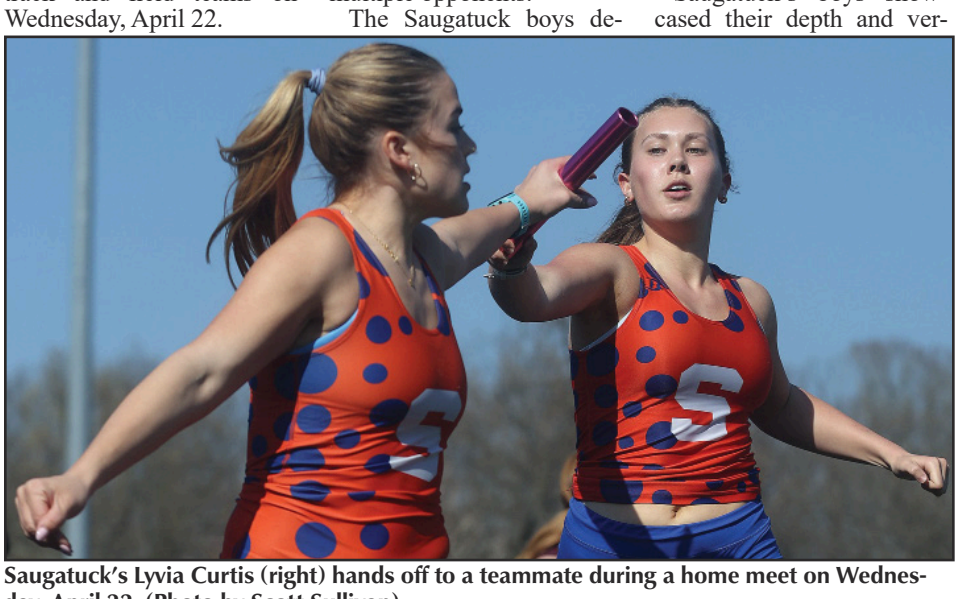
By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—It was a dominant showing across the board for the Saugatuck track and field teams on Wednesday, April 22.

Competing in a multi-team meet scored in a dual format, both the Trailblazer boys and girls teams went unbeaten against the field, turning in a series of decisive wins over multiple opponents.

The Saugatuck boys defeated South Haven 91-33, Muskegon Western Michigan Christian 101-27, Holland Calvary Christian 93-34 and Libertas Christian 112-12.

Saugatuck's boys showcased their depth and versatility, piling up wins in sprints, distance races and relays.



Saugatuck's Lyvia Curtis (right) hands off to a teammate during a home meet on Wednesday, April 22. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Charles Robison led the charge on the track, winning the 100-meter dash in 11.50 seconds and adding a victory in the 300 hurdles (42.45). Gabriel Lauer also had a strong day, capturing the 200 (23.45) while finishing second in the 100 (11.87).

The distance group delivered another big lift, led by Marcus Silva's win in the 3,200 (10:43.39). Sawyer Monroe (10:54.14) and Grant Rehkopf (10:54.56) also turned in strong finishes, while Jackson Bowman (4:51.95) and Tommy Bullinger (4:53.70) paced the team in the 1,600.

Relay teams continued that momentum. The 4x200 unit of Brennan Nor, Robison, Pete Mitchell and Lauer took first in 1:35.18, and the 4x800 team of Ira Brown, Monroe, Rehkopf and Silva added another win in 8:42.53.

Field events added valuable points as well, with Lincoln Church placing second in both the shot put (36-9) and discus (104-8). Max Schulz chipped in with a third-place finish in the shot put (35-0.5).

The Saugatuck girls were just as impressive, earning wins over South Haven (79-44), Muskegon Western Michigan Christian (95-29), Holland Calvary Christian (96-22) and Libertas Christian (82-33).

A balanced effort fueled the Trailblazers throughout the meet.

Alina Martinson turned in a standout performance, winning the 100 (13.55), 400 (1:02.22) and 1,600 (6:08.22).

Saugatuck's distance runners continued to shine, as Lyvia Curtis claimed the 800 (2:36.75) and Kamryn Sixberry won the 3,200 (12:00.42). Ellyse Heyser followed close behind in that race, finishing in 12:14.19.

On the hurdles side, Bella Ketterer placed second in both the 100 hurdles (19.77) and 300 hurdles (56.20).

The relay lineup produced another highlight, as Ketterer, Curtis, Savannah VanDenBerg and Leora Buss captured the 4x400 relay in 4:33.56. The 4x800 team added a win of its own in 11:18.56.

In the throwing events, Chloe Collins led the way with a fifth-place finish in the shot put (22-8.25) and sixth in the discus (62-11), while Elli Dokianakis recorded a personal-best throw of 60-5 in the discus.

Overall, it was a complete team effort for Saugatuck, as both squads controlled the meet from start to finish against a competitive group of schools.

Second-half comeback lifts Hamilton soccer over Spring Lake

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Hamilton girls soccer team rallied from a halftime deficit to earn a 2-1 win over visiting Spring Lake on Friday, April 25.

Trailing 1-0 at the break, the Hawkeyes regrouped and responded with a strong second half.

"We were down 0-1 at halftime and we knew we were still in it," Hamilton coach Brinley Nieuwenhuis said. "This is a team that will fight to the very last minute."

Hamilton tied the match when Maci Brot found the back of the net with 33 minutes remaining in the second half. The Hawkeyes later took the lead for good on a goal by Ellery Ritema with 13 minutes to play, with Bryn Nyboer assisting on the play.

Nieuwenhuis said the team focused on a few key areas during the halftime break.

"At halftime we talked about winning 50/50 balls, connecting our passes and moving off of the ball," she said. "They all stepped up and did exactly what we talked about."

Defensively, Ashlyn Brown and Ritema helped anchor the center of the field, limiting Covenant Christian's opportunities while also helping generate offense.

"Ashlyn Brown and Ellery Ritema really stepped up and locked down the center," Nieuwenhuis said. "They took control defensively and distributed it well offensively."

Nyboer also played a key role in the go-ahead goal.

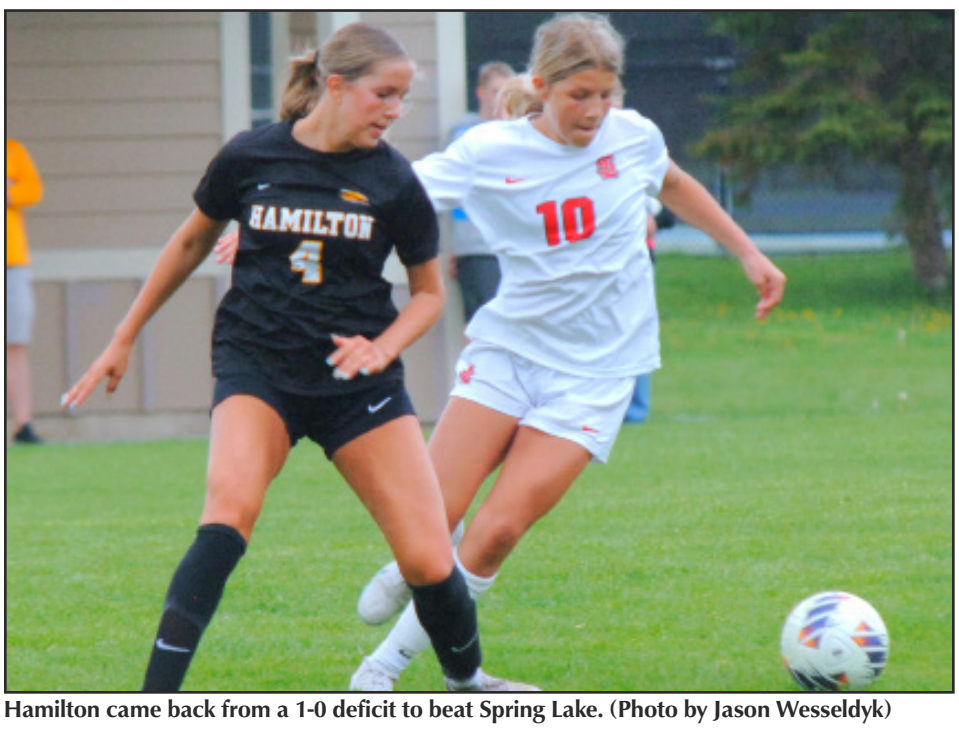
"Bryn Nyboer played with great confidence and worked her way down the line to get a cross off that ended up being an assist," Nieuwenhuis said.

Goalkeeper Zoe Heneveld recorded eight saves for Hamilton.

"Everyone has really been playing well and as a team we are connecting and playing well together," Nieuwenhuis said.

The Hawkeyes were back in action on Monday, April 27, hosting Zeeland East.

Hamilton dropped the game 3-1, with Emma Slotman scoring the team's lone goal.



Hamilton came back from a 1-0 deficit to beat Spring Lake. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martin baseball sweeps Black River after split with G-A

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Martin baseball team put together a strong offensive showing in a doubleheader sweep of Black River on Thursday, April 23.

The Clippers claimed a 21-8 win in the opener before following with a 16-0 victory in the nightcap.

Peyton Schuring-Harris paced the offense in Game 1, driving in five runs. He homered in the third inning and added a single and a pair of run-producing walks as Martin overcame a mid-game deficit.

After building an early lead, the Clippers found themselves trailing 7-5 following a six-run third inning by Black River. But Martin responded in the fourth to regain control and then broke the game open with a seven-run sixth inning.

"We did a good job responding when things didn't go our way," Martin coach Brad Blauvelt said. "We stayed aggressive at the plate and kept putting pressure on them."

Martin finished with 12 walks and 12 stolen bases in the game, consistently creating scoring opportunities.

Anderson Keeler started on the mound, while Schuring-Harris provided three innings of shutout relief, allowing just one hit while striking out five.

In Game 2, Martin took control early and never looked back, scoring 13 runs in the second inning on the way to the 16-0 win.

The Clippers again used patience at the plate and aggressive base running to their advantage, drawing seven walks and swiping eight bases.

Bryer Watson got the start and combined with the pitching staff to limit Black River to just two hits in the shutout.

"We're starting to see better approaches at the plate and more confidence across the lineup," Blauvelt said. "When we're taking good at-bats and being aggressive on the bases, we can be tough to handle."

Earlier in the week, Martin split a doubleheader with Galesburg-Augusta on Tuesday, April 21.

The Clippers dropped the opener 3-1 in a tightly contested game before bouncing back for a 10-6 win in the second game.

In the opener, Haylen Buell turned in a strong performance on the mound, allowing just three runs — one earned — over six innings while striking out nine. Martin tied the game in the fifth on an RBI single by Zaiden Buell, but Galesburg-Augusta pushed across the go-ahead run in the seventh.

"Haylen gave us a really strong outing and kept us in the game," Blauvelt said. "It was one of those games where a couple plays here or there make the difference."

Martin responded in Game 2, using a big second inning to take control. The Clippers scored five runs in the frame and added to the lead in the third.

Peyton Schuring-Harris and Anderson Keeler each had two hits for Martin, while Blake Sweeting drove in a pair of runs. The Clippers also continued their aggressive base running, finishing with nine stolen bases.

"We bounced back well in the second game," Blauvelt said. "That's something we've talked about — responding and staying consistent from one game to the next."

Wayland boys track wins Kent City Invite

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

KENT CITY—For the second time in as many weekends, the Wayland boys track and field team found itself at the top of the standings.

Wayland scored 87 points to win the Kent City Elite Invitational on Saturday, April 26, finishing ahead of Pewamo-Westphalia (69) and Lansing Catholic (63.5).

The victory comes one week after the Wildcats also captured the Allegan Invitational title.

Plainwell (10th with 34.5 points), Saugatuck (17th with 10 points) and Martin (19th with four points) also competed.

Wayland used a balanced effort across the board to secure the win, highlighted by strong performances in the sprints, relays and field events.

Henry Maass helped set the tone with a third-place finish in the 100-meter dash (11.42) and added a third-place showing in the 200 (22.96). Teammate Jake Reeder was runner-up in the 200 (22.28), while Brock Wheeler took second in the 400 (50.59).

The Wildcats also found success in the hurdles, where Alex Hubbard placed second in the 110 hurdles (15.50) and third in the 300 hurdles (41.26). Luke VandeZande added a seventh-place finish in the 110 hurdles (16.36).

Wayland's relay teams turned in key efforts as well. The 4x200 relay team of Maass, Wheeler, VandeZande and Reeder won in 1:30.79, while the 4x400 team of Wheeler, Hubbard, Chance Lenhart and Reeder placed second in 3:26.86.

In the field events, Ashton Kuhlman placed third in the shot put (51-0.5), and Jackson Byers cleared 11 feet to finish 11th in the pole vault.

Plainwell was led by Hiro Nguyen, who placed fourth in the 800 (2:00.47), and Braeden Asbeury, who finished fourth in the 400 (52.16).

Asbeury also teamed with Izik Lambert, Kegan Quarles and Dan Groner to place fifth in the 4x200 relay (1:34.58).

In the field events, Sawyer Lilly placed second in the shot put with a throw of 51-7.25, while Loehn Luckett cleared 12-6 to finish fifth in the pole vault.

For Saugatuck, Charles Robison leading the way with a fifth-place finish in the 100 (11.52) and sixth in the 200 (23.28).

Chase Skinner added a ninth-place finish in the 400 (53.49), while Marcus Silva (4:41.35) and Sawyer Monroe (4:44.40) both posted personal-best times in the 1,600.

Jackson Bowman also recorded a personal best in the 3,200, finishing in 10:07.23.

Seth Smit led Martin with a fifth-place finish in the long jump (19-8.5), while several teammates recorded personal-best performances on the track, including Hunter Hayes (5:17.82) and Jeremiah VanHouten (5:18.62) in the 1,600.

Hopkins softball wins three

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HOPKINS—The Hopkins softball team continued its strong stretch with a trio of decisive wins, including a shutout victory over West Ottawa on Wednesday, April 22.

Hopkins rolled to a 15-0 win in that contest, with Jorja Wood leading the way in the circle. Wood tossed three innings, allowing just one hit while striking out eight.

The victory came on the heels of a doubleheader sweep of Kelloggsville on Tuesday, April 21.

In the opener, Hopkins cruised to a 16-1 win behind a standout performance from Kelsey Burgess, who delivered both a triple and an inside-the-park home run. Gracie Stallard handled the pitching duties, throwing three innings and allowing just two hits while striking out six.

Hopkins followed that up with a 17-0 win in the nightcap. Kylie Williams contributed a double at the plate, while Wood returned to the circle and struck out seven over three innings, giving up just one hit.

Across the three games, Hopkins combined timely hitting with dominant pitching, outscoring its opponents 48-1.

For The Record

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

May 3, 1951

Professor Stirs Up Tempest in Tea Pot: The Woman's History Class, at the MIchigan school oldest women's club, will hold its final meeting of the season Friday in the Griswold lounge.

Following a co-operative luncheon, members will discuss an issue which had the club pretty well split down the middle.

Begun as a study club, the group has lately turned to speakers from other sources. And because of what happened at their last meeting, April 20, some of the members would like to return to the original concept, in which members prepared "papers" for presentation to the club.

THE INCIDENT which touched off the current difference of opinion occurred when their last speaker, a member of the speech department at Western Michigan College, inadvertently touched on the wrong side—for the club's membership—of the Truman-MacArthur controversy.

Talking on "the power of the voice", the instructor used MacArthur's speech before Congress as an example of what a "patriotic voice."

When the speaker intimated that "what MacArthur said was unimportant, it was the way he said it," the usually reserved club members could no longer contain themselves.

SOME TOOK EXCEPTION vocally, while others got up and left the room to show their displeasure.

April 29, 1976

Medical case evidence found missing: Charges of practicing medicine without a license against a former Allegan area couple were dismissed last week in circuit court because key evidence in the case disappeared from the sheriff's department.

REINHOLD R. STAUB, 62, and his wife, Dee Traster Staub, 57, now residents of Indiana, had four counts of practicing medicine without a license dismissed upon a recommendation by the prosecutor's office based upon the missing evidence.

Judge Meyer Warshawsky, visiting judge from Van Buren County who switched with Judge George Corsiglia for one week, concurred with the dismissal motion and the two were freed from any further criminal prosecution on the charges.

The missing evidence consisted of several bottles and jars of herbs, bonemeal, vitamins, and other "health foods" that were confiscated from the Staubs' 41st Street mobile home when they were arrested Dec. 4, 1974 by the sheriff's department.

They were extremely angry about the confiscation and had complained about it in pre-trial hearings, but their attorney, Joseph Jerkins of Kalamazoo, said his clients will probably not sue the county for losing their property.

WHAT HAPPENED to the evidence is unknown. The sheriff's department has failed to return News & Gazette calls about the disappearance.

May 3, 2001

The bottles in this 1974 photo are the evidence that disappeared from the sheriff's department causing the dismissal of charges of practicing medicine without a license against Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Staub, former Allegan area residents, who were arrested December 1974 by the sheriff's department. The dark numbers on them were made by the Staubs, former Deputy James Bay, in the middle, said. On the left is Deputy David Gray, and Sheriff Robert Whitcomb is on the right. The marijuana plant in the background was not confiscated from the Staubs.

Prosch-Jensen photo

Allegan hires manager: After five years as assistant city manager, and five months as interim city manager, Lisa Sutterfield signed a contract with the Allegan City Council in late April to become Allegan's second female city manager.

Sutterfield assumed the post vacated last year by Rob Hillard, one of two people she credits as her role models in the field of public administration. Hillard moved to Yellow Springs, Ohio, as city manager in November 2000.

Allegan officials conducted interviews the last week of April for an assistant city manager to train under Sutterfield.

The contract between the council and Sutterfield covers one year beginning April 24, 2001, has a standard benefit package, offers a $5,000 bonus for relocating in the city and includes a $100,000 life-insurance policy. Sutterfield said her $60,142 annual salary is typical for a manager of her experience in a city the size of Allegan.

Allegan's first woman city manager was Joanne Wrench.

Born in Gobles, Sutterfield represents the third generation of women from her family who graduated from Gobles High School. Even before matriculating at the James Madison College at Michigan State University, she knew she wanted to help people through public service. She wanted to become a leader in addressing community problems.

"I decided my senior year in high school, when I got a brochure from James Madison, 'That's what I want to do, be a city manager,' " Sutterfield said.

Lisa Sutterfield became the second woman city manager in Allegan history when she signed a contract at the April city council meeting. Sutterfield has been with the city for five years as assistant city manager. (Photo by Dan Kelsey)

May 6, 2021

River recreation encouraged as clean-up continues: The Trowbridge Dam clean-up project will continue through the summer of 2021, but people wishing to kayak, canoe, tube and boat on the river will be able to do so knowing that they must portage around the surging water of the dam. This information comes from Paul Ruesch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator.

Before the snow fell around the Trowbridge Dam area in late 2020, several changes occurred such as the old buildings at the north end of the dam disappeared and major power poles moved from their original right-of-way to a new path just to the east.

"These high voltage wires had to be moved away from where cranes and equipment would be working," Ruesch explained. "It took more time to pull the paperwork than it took Consumers Energy to construct the new pole and wire system."

Another piece of the puzzle is to determine how deep the PCB contamination goes into the river bottom and along the shoreline. In the fall, work crews conducted borings into the riverbed using plastic tubes. Samples were taken at 1 foot intervals as far down as the borings could go. The findings revealed that deeper testing would be required in the spring because even at 6 feet, PCBs were still found at high concentrations in the sediment.

Crews are preparing to drill deeper to determine where the contamination stops. Once the depth of the PCBs is defined, a request for proposals (RFPs) will be published and a contract awarded toward the end of this year.

In addition to determining the extent of contamination in the river, excavation work will be accomplished along the southside of the river in preparation for the sediment removal to begin. The staging area will allow for the contaminated materials to be spread out to dry before being hauled away. If anticipated timelines are met, the leveling of the staging area should begin in September 2021 and the removal and drying process should begin in Spring 2022.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Deaths

March 22, 2026
WILLIAM FREDRICK DITMAR JR, 69, Allegan Twp.

April 1, 2026
LISA MARIE STREETER, 41, Allegan

April 4, 2026
IMOGENE SUE LAFOUNTAIN, 88, Allegan Twp.

April 8, 2026
JEFFREY EDWARD STEELE, 79, Fillmore Twp.
DONALD F GLUMM SR, 85, Clyde Twp.

April 9, 2026
SUZANNE MELODY LONEY, 77, Otsego Twp.

April 10, 2026
GLORIA GAY EDWARDS, 82, Holland

April 11, 2026
VICTOR DAVID BRENNER, 60, Salem Twp.
THOMAS MICHAEL KOHN, 76, Gun Plain Twp.

April 12, 2026
DALLAS WILLIAM FISCHER, 78, Gun Plain Twp.
JUELLA HARRIET SCHROTENBOER, 97, HOlland

April 13, 2026
BRIGITTE RIEDL, 73, Douglas

April 15, 2026
KATHRYN MARY OBERST, 40, Allegan Twp.

April 16, 2026
DEBRA HELEN WYNNE, 70, Plainwell
ANDRE CHRISTOPHER CIEPLY, 74, Holland

April 19, 2026
JOHN L HEUVELMAN, 97, Douglas
KATHY VANAVERY, 75, Manlius Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between April 14 and April 22:

CATHERINE MARIE HUVAERE, Holland, and **STEVEN LEE DUTTON**, Holland
KYLE ROBERT BENEDICT, Allegan, and **ASHLEE JOY REINSTEIN**, Allegan
CAYLIE EMILIA RIESS, Allegan, and **DYLAN TIMOTHY DEGARMO**, Allegan
NATASHA LYNN PROCTOR, Allegan, and **DUSTIN JOHN MARCUS**, Holland
MADELEIN CAROLE JAGER, Holland, and **HAROLD ALBERTO YGUARAN NUNEZ**, Holland
AMANDA MUNOZ, Otsego, and **CARLOS RUBEN PAREDES TOVAR**, Otsego
KERSTIN MOLLY BRIANN SHELDON, Otsego, and **JUSTIN SCOTT TURNER**, Otsego
JACKIE LANETT STARKS, Otsego, and **DANIEL EDWARD DULONG JR**, Otsego
ASHLEY ANN MELKA, Plainwell, and **SAMUEL ROBERT DUFF**, Plainwell
EMILY GRACE VELD, Wayland, and **COLTON JOHN BURCHARDT**, Hopkins
MICHELLE LYNN RASNAKE, Plainwell, and **JOSE LUIS NAVARRO**, Pullman
ELLA MADISON SCHABES, Plainwell, and **LANDEN AARON SHANNON**, Plainwell

Sudoku

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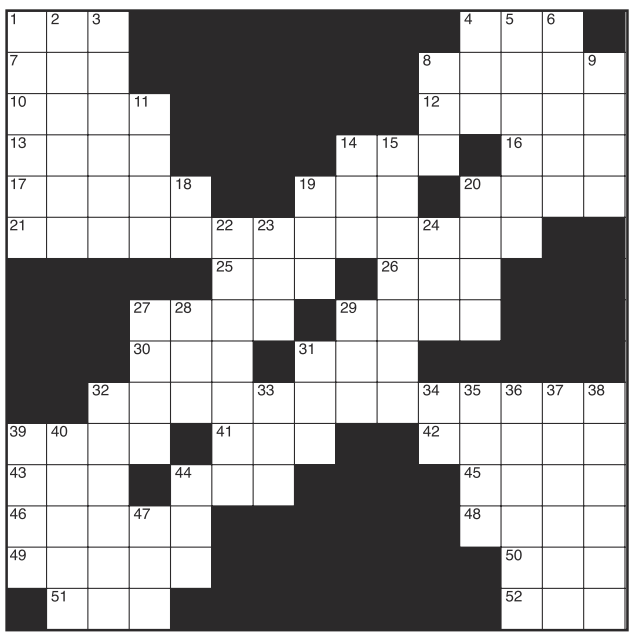
6			3	2			1	
		5			9	3		
	4		2					7
			7				9	3
	9					4		

(See Solution Page B7)

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Purchase
4. British news organization
7. Midway between northeast and east
8. Language specialist group
10. Fancy automobile
12. Small loop or series of loops
13. Exploiter
14. Don't know when yet
16. Group of languages
17. One who's finished
19. After B
20. Angled
21. A place to adopt pets
25. Swiss river
26. Young boy
27. Unexciting
29. American comedian Vidale
30. Peyton's little brother
31. Corporate higher-up
32. ÒAll in the FamilyÓ star
39. Strike something forcefully
41. Up in the air (abbr.)
42. Clay earth pigments
43. Means to record brain activity
44. Small constellation
45. Embraces
46. Brief description
48. Exclude
49. White (French)
50. Insect
51. A major division of geological time
52. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN
1. Type of whale
2. In tune
3. A citizen of Yemen
4. Actress Ling
5. One who supports
6. Circus performer
8. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
9. Quantitative fact
11. Utah city
14. Where a golfer begins
15. Attendant
18. The ancient Egyptian sun god
19. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
20. Benedictine monk
22. Not turbulent
23. Car mechanics group
24. Buffer used in chemistry
27. Fall heavily
28. Pie ___ mode
29. The Brits love it
31. Children's TV channel (abbr.)
32. Jacksonville footballer
33. Helps little firms
34. __ and behold
35. A way to resemble
36. Fingers
37. Excessive indulgences
38. You might be an 'empty' one
39. 'How the West Was Won' writer
40. European river
44. They begin the alphabet
47. The body's messenger

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Public Notices

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 7, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): John T. Perry, a single man who acquired title as a married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: September 25, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: October 3, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $54,602.84
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Otsego, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot Number 20 and the East 1/2 of Lot Number 19 except Four Rods off the North end of Block 3 of the Original Plat of the Village, now City of Otsego, Michigan.
Common street address (if any): 351 E Allegan St, Otsego, MI 49078-1105
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 26, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1588455
(03-26)(04-23)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, May 7, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Mike Owen and Jessica Owen, Husband and Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for America`s Wholesale Lender, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated April 1, 2005, and recorded on April 8, 2005, in Liber 2818, Page 975, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-RPL3 by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 09, 2026 and recorded March 04, 2026 in Liber 5115, Page 409, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Seven Thousand Eighty-Two and 79/100 ($67,082.79) including interest at the rate of 4.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: The South 66 feet of Lot 17 of Lowe`s 2nd Divisional Map according to the recorded Plat thereof. Commonly known as: 124 S EASTERN AVE, ALLEGAN, MI 49010 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: March 26, 2026 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-RPL3 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00845-1
(03-26)(04-23)

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 A.M., on May 7, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Elyse Suzanne Turley and Ronald Masters, wife and husband, ("Mortgagors"), gave a mortgage to Advia Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated January 28, 2022, and recorded on February 2, 2022, in Liber 4726, on Page 322, Allegan County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Thirty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars and 01/100 Dollars ($37,132.01) plus accrued interest at 9.250% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan @ 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lots 8 and 9, Block D, HOMESTEAD ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF OTSEGO, as recorded in Liber 2, Page 22 of Plats, Allegan County Records. Commonly: 532 E Morell St., Otsego, MI 49078—Tax Id #54-454-009-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: April 2, 2026 Advia Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248)352-4340
(04-02)(04-30)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 07, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Timothy A. Stevens and Tari Stevens, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Household Finance Corporation III Date of mortgage: November 26, 2002 Recorded on January 3, 2003, Liber 2366, on Page 209, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on July 6, 2011, Liber 3528, on Page 660, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust IX-A Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty and 37/100 Dollars ($201,650.37) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: THE NORTH 124.84 FEET OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 SECTION 17, TOWN 4 NORTH RANGE 12 WEST. Commonly known as 4245 21st St, Dorr, MI 49323 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust IX-A Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1590154
(04-09)(04-30)

Allegan County Circuit Court Case No. 25-70574-CH NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE The property described below shall be sold at public auction, by an authorized sheriff/ deputy sheriff or county clerk/deputy county clerk, to the highest bidder, at the Circuit Court for the County of Allegan on the 4th of June, 2026 at 9:00 am, local time. On said day at said time, the following described property shall be sold: property located in the City of Fennville, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, particularly described as Part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 5, Town 2 North, Range 15 West, City of Fennville, Allegan County, Michigan, being described as: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 18, Capen's Addition; thence South 298.00 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence East 198.00 feet; thence South 100.00 feet; thence West 198.00 feet; thence North 100.00 feet to the point of beginning, Allegan County Records. More commonly known as: 320 S Maple St, Fennville, MI 49408 This notice is from a debt collector. Date of Notice: 4/16/2026 Trott Law, P.C.
1590632
(04-16)(05-21)

STATE OF Michigan
48th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Juditial District
County Probate
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION
Case NO. 26-71744-CH
Plaintiff name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).
Brian J. Bender
1085 42nd Street
Allegan, MI 49010
269-286-2681
v
Defendant name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).
Carolyn Dawn Hays, Deceased
TO: Carolyn Dawn Hays and Any heirs and/or creditors.
IT IS ORDERED:
1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to assign ownership of manufactured home/mobile home. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before Monday, June 1, 2026. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.
2 A copy gf this order shall be published once each week in the Allegan County News for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

GANGES TOWNSHIP

MEETING SYNOPSIS
APRIL 14, 2026 7:00 pm

1. Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance-7:00pm
2. Board Present: Hutchins, Reimink, Hebert, Phelps, Thompson
3. Approved Agenda
4. Correspondence
5. Public Comments
6. Approved March 10, 2026 Regular Mtg. Mins
7. Approved Treasurer's Report
8. Approved Listed bills in the amount of $73,487.65
9. Reports from Fire Dept, Planning Commission
10. Approved Resolution to Approve Ballot Language for Road Millage for August election
11. Approved Granicus Proposal
12. Approved Off Premises Tasting Room License
13. Approved hiring of New Website designer to become ADA Compliant
14. Heard Public Comments
15. Adjourned meeting

CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
DUCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED DUCK LAKE 2026-2030 SUPPLEMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLANS AND ESTIMATED COSTS AT MAY 16, 2026 TOWNSHIP BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESHIRE, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN; OWNERS OF PROPERTY ABUTTING AND/OR WITH DEEDED ACCESS TO DUCK LAKE IN LAND SECTION 36 OF CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP; AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE at the request of residents and property owners of the existing Duck Lake Improvement Project Special Assessment District created in 2014 for a 20-year term, the Cheshire Township Board is considering a supplemental lake improvement project in 2026-2030 pursuant to a comprehensive study of Duck Lake by Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) and the resulting report dated July 2025 recommending, among other things, the following be undertaken in 2026-2030 to supplement the aquatic vegetation and control project previously approved for 2024-2028, with the cost of such supplemental project to be financed by special assessments on the benefited properties in the District that will replace the previously approved special assessments for the remaining years of the 2024-2028 aquatic vegetation control project:

- the deployment of TimberChar filters at selected inlets/drains and other locations on the lake, under the technical expertise and guidance of RLS;
- water quality data acquisition and analysis by RLS;
- technical support by RLS for remediation technologies (including permitting);
- a two-year extension of the aquatic vegetation control project previously approved for 2024-2028 to align the term of that part of the supplemental project with the other parts of the supplemental project, including technical guidance by RLS for the remaining years of the existing 2024-2028 aquatic vegetation control project as now proposed to be extended to include 2029-2030.

The proposed Duck Lake Improvement Special Assessment District within which the cost of the foregoing improvements is proposed to be specially assessed is described as follows:

All lots/parcels or portions thereof abutting Duck Lake or with deeded access to Duck Lake in land section 36, as shown on the existing special assessment district map.

The Township Board has received plans for the proposed supplemental lake improvement project in 2026-2030, together with an estimate of the costs of the project in the amount of $356,365, which includes a 10% "contingency" for inflation-related or other adjustments, and legal/ administrative fees of $7,500 for the 2025-2026 special assessment process.

The Township Board at its March 26, 2026 meeting passed a Resolution tentatively declaring its intention to proceed with the requested supplemental lake improvement project in 2026-2030 pursuant to the preliminary plans and cost estimates, without change to the boundaries of the special assessment district as created in 2014. A public hearing on this proposed supplemental improvement project and the estimated costs of same will be held at the Cheshire Township Hall at 471 41st just north of 104th Avenue, Cheshire, Michigan, on **May 16, 2026** in conjunction with a special meeting of the Township Board beginning at 10:00 a.m.

At this hearing/meeting the Board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters which are filed with the Board prior to or at the hearing, as well as any corrections or changes to the proposed supplemental plans or estimate of costs. The supplemental project plans, estimate of costs, and a map of the existing special assessment district may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk and may further be examined at the public hearing.

If the Township Board determines to proceed with the 2026-2030 supplemental improvement project a second public hearing will be held at a later date to be set by the Township Board for the purpose of reviewing and hearing objections to the proposed 2026-2030 special assessment roll allocating the costs of the project among the various properties included in the special assessment district. Appearance and protest at such a second public hearing or as otherwise allowed by 1962 PA 162, as amended, is required in order to preserve a right to appeal the amount of any such special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of a special assessment roll. Formal notice of any such second public hearing will be published in a newspaper and mailed to affected property owners as required by law. A re-determination of the actual costs to be specially assessed in 2027-2030 for the improvements in 2028-2030 may be made by the Township Board on an annual basis without further Notice if allowed by law. A proposed special assessment roll for a continuation project in any years subsequent to 2030 will not be approved without new plans and cost estimates and a further hearing thereon and on extending the term of the existing special assessment district beyond 2034.

The Township Board tentatively anticipates proposing special assessments for the 2026-2030 supplemental project as follows, but subject to change at the second public hearing:

- $2,909.12 for each lot/parcel abutting Duck Lake (with all contiguous lots/parcels in the same ownership specially assessed as one benefit unit), levied and payable in five annual installments of $727.88 in 2026 and $545.31 in each of years 2027-2030.
- $1,454.88 for each lot/parcel with deeded access to Duck Lake (with all contiguous lots/parcels in the same ownership specially assessed as one-half benefit unit), levied and payable in five annual installments of $363.94 in 2026 and $272.66 in each of years 2027-2030.

The foregoing hearings and all proceedings associated with these special assessment matters will be conducted in accordance with and pursuant to 1954 PA 188, as amended, the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and any other applicable law.

Cheshire Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting/hearing to individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered, upon reasonable notice to the Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk as designated below.

Jodi Pinnell, Clerk
Cheshire Township
1061 37th Street
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 521-3440

Public Notices

4/14/26
Judge Jipp P80899

NOTICE OF HEARING AND MOTION
Case NO. 26-71744-CH
Brian J. Bender
v
Carolyn Dawn Hays, deceased, and any known heirs
Notice of Hearing
1. Motion title: Entry of ownership and for publication
2. Moving party: Brian Bender
3. This matter has been placed on the motion calendar for:
Judge Jipp
Monday 6/1/26 at 1:30pm
Courtroom A
4. If you require accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.
Motion
Motion for entry of an order declaring ownership of manufactured/mobile home, Motion of Entry of order for publication.
4-16-26
4/23 4/30 5/7

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 21, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Christian Terhorst, a single man, and Michaela Vlietstra, a single woman, as joint tenants with right of survivorship Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.("MERS"),solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: July 18, 2025 Recorded on July 22, 2025, Liber 5051, on Page 632, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on April 2, 2026, Liber 5124, on Page 891, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Forty and 55/100 Dollars ($218,640.55) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: Lots 7 and 8, Green Meadows Subdivision, being in the Southwest quarter of Section 31, Town 1 North, Range 15 West, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 7, Page 4 of Plats, Allegan County Records. Commonly known as 5975 Baseline Rd, Grand Junction, MI 49056 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NewRez LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1591495
(04-23)(05-14)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on June 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Daniel Allen Armentrout and Christine Armentrout, husband and wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., solely as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, dated October 17, 2023, and recorded October 19, 2023 in Liber 4895 Page 830, in ALLEGAN County records, Michigan, and assigned to Planet Home Lending, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on April 03, 2025 in Liber 5022, Page 300,on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Three-Hundred Seventy-Four and 59/100 dollars ($198,374.59). Said premises are situated in the City of Allegan, County of ALLEGAN, and State of Michigan, and particularly described as: Lots 49 and 50, Davis Addition to the Village, now City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats on Page 67. Property Address:539 Davis Street Allegan, Michigan 49010 Parcel No.: 03-51-120-044-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: April 23, 2026 For more information, please call: (513) 444-4100 Sottile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2603026 - Armentrout, Daniel (VA) - DA
(04-23)(05-14)

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: SAVANNA NICOLE CLARK has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026 AT 10:15 AM at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: SAVANNA NICOLE CLARK to SAVANNA NICOLE WASHINGTON

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Lorrie Lynn Jamieson
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent, Lorrie Lynn Jamieson, date of birth 11-27-1971, died December 16, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Amanda Zeran, Personal Representative, or to both the Allegan County Probate Court, 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010, and the Personal Representative, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Personal Representative:
Amanda Zeran
5855 Ivory Rd.
Allendale, MI 49401

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on June 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Douglas Miller, an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Center, LLC
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: February 2, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: March 3, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $25,237.09
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 19 and 20 of West Sunset Acres Plat, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 7 of Plats on Page 2.
Common street address (if any): 529 Sherman St, Allegan, MI 49010-1452
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: April 30, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1591990
(04-30)(05-21)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 26-66136-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Chris McDowell Date of Birth:*12/31/1952
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Chris McDowell, died 01/30/2026.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jeffrey D. Eding, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
04/08/2026
Mark H. Zietlow P37022
12274 James Street
Holland, MI 49424
616-392-4100
Jeffrey D. Eding
4572 134th Avenue
Hamilton, MI 49419
616-293-6183

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 26-66139-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Joan B. Saintz, Deceased Date of Birth:*08-19-1939
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Joan B. Saintz, died 2-2-2026 .
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Janet Brown and/or John Saintz, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
4-23-2026
Christopher T. Antkoviak P59448
416 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI 49010
(269)673-8468
Janet Brown / John Saintz
1301 42nd Street / 1319 42nd Street
Allegan, MI 49010
269-512-2911

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. XXX and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Scott Randall Duursma Date of Birth:* July 7, 1960
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Scott Randall Duursma, died August 30, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Sherri Rae Duursma, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal

CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ESTABLISHING PROPOSED SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, AND 2027-2036 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLANS AND ESTIMATED COSTS AT MAY 16, 2026 TOWNSHIP BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESHIRE, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN; OWNERS OF PROPERTY WITH FRONTAGE ON SWAN LAKE AND/OR WITH DEEDED/SPECIAL ACCESS TO SWAN LAKE IN LAND SECTIONS 15, 16, 21 AND 22 OF CHESHIRE TOWNSHIP; AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE at the request of residents and owners of property with frontage on Swan Lake and/or with deeded/special access to Swan Lake the Cheshire Township Board is proposing to establish the Swan Lake improvement Special Assessment District for the purpose of lake management, aquatic vegetation control, and related services to improve Swan Lake, and is considering a specific Swan Lake Improvement project proposed to be undertaken in 2027-2036 pursuant to a comprehensive study of Swan Lake by Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS), to be financed by special assessments levied in 2026-2035.

The 2027-2036 improvement project recommended by RLS pursuant to the comprehensive study and the resulting report includes, among other things, the following components proposed to be undertaken in 2027-2036:

- the deployment of TimberChar filters at selected inlets/drains and other locations on the lake, under the technical expertise and guidance of RLS;
- water quality data acquisition and analysis by RLS;
- strategic weed control;
- technical support by RLS for remediation technologies (including permitting).

The proposed Swan Lake Improvement Special Assessment District within which the cost of the foregoing improvements is proposed to be specially assessed is described as follows:

> All lots/parcels or portions thereof in land sections 15, 16, 21 and 22 of Cheshire Township with frontage on Swan Lake, and all backlots/parcels or portions thereof in those land sections with a deeded or other special right of access to Swan Lake pursuant to a dedicated outlot or other private access, as shown on the proposed special assessment district map.

The Township Board has received plans for the proposed lake improvement project in 2027-2036, together with an estimate of the costs of the project in the amount of $361,000, which includes a 5% "buffer" for inflation-related adjustments, and legal/administrative fees of $7,500 for the 2025-2026 special assessment process.

The Township Board at its March 26, 2026 meeting passed a Resolution tentatively declaring its intention to establish the special assessment district and proceed with the legal process for the 2027-2036 project. A public hearing on the proposed special assessment district and this improvement project and the estimated costs of same will be held at the Cheshire Township Hall at 471 41st just north of 104th Avenue, Cheshire, Michigan, on **May 16, 2026** in conjunction with a special meeting of the Township Board beginning at 10:00 a.m.

At this hearing/meeting the Board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters which are filed with the Board prior to or at the hearing, as well as any corrections or changes to the proposed special assessment district boundaries or the plans or estimate of costs. The RLS study and report, project plans, estimate of costs, and the boundaries of the proposed special assessment district may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk and may further be examined at the public hearing.

If the Township Board determines to establish the special assessment district and proceed with the 2027-2036 improvement project, a second public hearing will be held at a later date to be set by the Township Board for the purpose of reviewing and hearing objections to the proposed 2026-2035 special assessment roll allocating the costs of the project among the various properties included in the special assessment district. Appearance and protest at such a second public hearing or as otherwise allowed by 1962 PA 162, as amended, is required in order to preserve a right to appeal the amount of any such special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of a special assessment roll. Formal notice of any such second public hearing will be published in a newspaper and mailed to affected property owners as required by law. A re-determination of the actual costs to be specially assessed in 2026-2035 for the improvements in 2027-2036 may be made by the Township Board on an annual basis without further Notice if allowed by law (increase of 10% or less). A proposed special assessment roll for a continuation project in any years subsequent to 2036 will not be approved without new plans and cost estimates and a further hearing thereon.

The Township Board tentatively anticipates proposing special assessments for the 2027-2036 project as follows, but subject to change at the public hearing:

- $4,454.40 for each non-commercial lot/parcel or portion thereof with frontage on Swan Lake (with all contiguous lots/parcels in the same ownership specially assessed as one benefit unit), levied and payable in 10 equal annual installments of $445.44) in each of years 2026-2035.

- $2,227.20 for each backlot/parcel or portion thereof with deeded or other special right of access to Swan Lake pursuant to a dedicated outlot or other private access to Swan Lake (with all contiguous lots/parcels in the same ownership specially assessed as one-half benefit unit), levied and payable in 10 equal annual installments of $222.72) in each of years 2026-2035.

- Each of the following commercial properties abutting Swan Lake with multiple mobile home dwelling sites and/or recreational vehicle/tent sites are each proposed to be specially assessed one benefit unit ($4,454.40, plus $210.00 for each mobile home and/or recreational vehicle/tent site), levied and payable in 10 equal annual installments in each of years 2026-2035 (parcel numbers 03-016-003-01, 03-016-012-00, and 03-016-009-00). Note: the specific special assessment amounts on each of these three properties will be calculated subsequent to the May 16 public hearing/meeting and will be included in the legal Notice for the second public hearing on the proposed 2026-2035 special assessment roll.

The foregoing hearings and all proceedings associated with these special assessment matters will be conducted in accordance with and pursuant to 1954 PA 188, as amended, the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and any other applicable law.

Cheshire Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting/hearing to individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered, upon reasonable notice to the Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk as designated below.

Jodi Pinnell, Clerk
Cheshire Township
1061 37th Street
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 521-3440
clerk@cheshiretownshipmi.gov

Public Notices

representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
4/21/26
William I. Bereza P77550
5360 Cascade Road SE Address
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
(616) 365-5055
Sherri Rae Duursma
4304 110th Avenue
Allegan, Michigan 49010
(269) 686-5960

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on June 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Lisa Ti Elzinga, an unmarried woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: December 11, 2020
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 22, 2020
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $54,003.27
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Plainwell, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 5 and 6 of Sherwood's Addition to the Village (now city) of Plainwell, as recorded in Liber 44 on Page 523, Less the North 2 Rods and the East 50 feet therefrom.
Common street address (if any): 520 N Sherwood Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-1333
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: April 30, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1591560
(04-30)(05-21)

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE SALE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Matthew M. Gallas, single man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Vandyk Mortgage Corporation dated August 31, 2005 and recorded October 25, 2005 in Liber 2907, Page 724, Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by MidFirst Bank by assignment. In pursuance and by virtue of a Judgment of Foreclosure entered for Plaintiff, MidFirst Bank against Defendant, Matthew M. Gallas in Case No. 2025-0000070973-CH of the Allegan County Circuit Court, the below premises shall be foreclosed and sold by public auction. Said Judgment of Foreclosure was entered on the 6th day of April, 2026, wherein there is claimed to be due on said date the sum of Eighty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Seventeen Dollars and Fifty Cents ($82,617.50), plus sums advanced for taxes, insurance and other fees incurred and allowed by said mortgage. Under the Judgment of Foreclosure and related statutes, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the mortgage premises pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure and that the sale shall be at public auction to the highest bidder, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, on the 18th day of June, 2026 at 9:00 AM, Eastern Standard Time, the following described property, viz: All certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Monterey, County of Allegan and State of Michigan, described as follows: The South 330 feet of the West 50 feet of the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 8, Town 3 North, Range 13 West. Also the West 200 feet of the North 353 feet of the South 683 feet of the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 8, Town 3 North, Range 13 West, Monterey Township, Allegan County, Michigan. Commonly Known As: 3373 132nd Ave, Hopkins, MI, 49328 Tax ID: 16-008-009-21 This property may be redeemed during the six (6) months following the sale. Dated: April 21, 2026 Orlans Law Group PLLC /s/Sogol I. Plagany Attorneys for Plaintiff Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084 Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 File No. 25-011533
(04-30)(06-04)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Charles J. Medler Date of Birth:*-December 26, 1928
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charles J. Medler, died February 3, 2026.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Michael S. Fuller , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
4-27-26
Varnum LLP
Linsey Gleason P72242
PO Box 352
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0352
616/336-6000
Michael S. Fuller
1907 Peace Valley Court NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
(616) 485-0268

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on June 4, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Christine Quigley, a single woman, whose address is 130 Edsell Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as Nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, being a mortgage dated December 29, 2021, and recorded on January 4, 2022 in Liber 4715 Page 328, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment recorded in Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX AND 68/100 DOLLARS ($121,836.68). Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: THAT PART OF LOT 1 BLOCK 3 OF PETERS ADDITION DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 1, THENCE EASTERLY ON THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 98.5 FEET, THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY 84.55 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID EDSELL STREET, BEING 50.54 FEET SOUTHEASTERLY OF SAID NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1, THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ON EASTERLY LINE OF EDSELL STREET 50.54 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALSO COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK 3, THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG EDSELL STREET 170 FEET, THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 1, 98.5 FEET EASTERLY OF PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE WESTERLY TO PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALSO: COMMENCING AT A POINT SOUTH 86 DEGREES 14 MINUTES EAST 98.5 FEET FROM NORTHERLY CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK 3, PETERS ADDITION, THENCE NORTH 40 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 36 SECONDS WEST 147 FEET, THENCE NORTH 84 DEGREES EAST TO KALAMAZOO RIVER, THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID RIVER TO A POINT NORTH 49 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 24 SECONDS EAST OF THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE SOUTH 49 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 130 Edsell Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: April 30, 2026 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490) Johnson, Blumberg & Associates LLC 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602 312.541.9710 - Phone 312.541.9711 - Fax File No.: MI 26 7182
(04-30)(05-21)

CITY OF FENNVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Zoning Board of Appeals

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to PA 110 of 2006, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, the Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of Fennville shall hold a public hearing for the purpose of deliberating the following items on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Fennville City Hall, 125 S Maple Street, Fennville, MI 49408.

1. Request for Variance from Michael West of Michigan Housing Partners, LLC, interested party, to construct a residential dwelling within the closer than 15 feet from the edge of the Fennville Street Right of Way in the B-1 Downtown Edge District, per Section 450-1206(A) of the City of Fennville Zoning Ordinance at 113 W Fennville Street, also known as Permanent Parcel 03-52-350-006-00.
2. Any other such business as comes legally before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

A copy of the application and related materials are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.

This meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for City residents and interested citizens to express their opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the petition. Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the City Commissioner at Fennville City Hall, 125 S Maple Street, Fennville, MI 49408 or by calling City Hall at (269) 561-8321. All written comments must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026.

If any resident has a physical disability which may limit his/her participation in this hearing, please notify City Hall at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

KATIE BEEMER, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
CITY OF FENNVILLE
(269) 561-8321

Meeting Synopsis
Heath Township Board Meeting. April 13, 2026
3440 M-40 Hamilton, MI 49419.
Heath Township Hall

Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Present: Jones, Boerman, B.Harvey Absent: M.Harvey, Lindholm
Items approved:
1. Minutes from the March 9, 2026 meeting.
2. Pay checks #17413-17443.
3. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Prepared by Clerk Missy Harvey. Approved by Supervisor Ron Jones

Meeting Synopsis
Heath Township Board Meeting. April 20, 2026
3440 M-40 Hamilton, MI 49419.
Heath Township Hall

Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Present: Jones, M.Harvey, Boerman, B.Harvey
Absent: Lindholm
Items approved:
1. New Treasurer Connie Smith to Township Board.
2. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Prepared by Clerk Missy Harvey. Approved by Supervisor Ron Jones

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF PLAINWELL
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOMINATING PETITIONS are now available for the office of Plainwell City Council for the November 3, 2026 General Election. Three (3) non-partisan positions will be filled for terms of four (4) years each. Candidates must be a duly registered elector in the City and shall have been a resident of the City for not less than four (4) months immediately prior to the election at which the candidate is running for office. (per Sect. 4.2 of the City Charter). Petitions can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 211 N. Main St., Plainwell, MI 49080, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

THE FILING DEADLINE IS
TUESDAY JULY 21, 2026, AT 4:00 P.M.

JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk
City of Plainwell
(269) 685-6821
Dated: April 30,2026

NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING
City of Allegan Property Sale

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Allegan, Michigan, shall on May 11, 2026, at 6:00 PM, at the City Council Chambers, Allegan City Hall 231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, Michigan, hold a public hearing for the purpose of considering the sale of real property as follows:

Sale of the following property on Weeks Street with a parcel number 51-290-003-00 to Brandon and Melissa Genzink:

Legal Description – LOT 7 EXC N 15' THEREOF WEEKS ADDITION SEC 28. (13T).

At that time and place, the City Council shall hear and consider comments, concerns, statements, information, or other communications concerning the proposed property sale. Please send all written comments to the address listed below.

Carol Canales, Deputy Clerk
City of Allegan
231 Trowbridge Street
Allegan MI 49010
(269) 673-5511

NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET AND MILLAGE FOR THE CITY OF WAYLAND, MICHIGAN

Notice is hereby given that the City of Wayland will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 18, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. at Wayland City Hall located at 103 South Main Street, Wayland, MI, for the purpose of discussing the adoption of the 2026-2027 budget and millage rate.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection during regular business hours at Wayland City Hall, 103 S. Main Street, Wayland, MI. At the Public Hearing, all interested persons shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed budget and millage rate to be levied on property in the City of Wayland.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

If any resident has a disability which may limit participation in this hearing, please notify City Hall at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.
Amanda Rodriguez, City Clerk/HR Manager

City of Wayland
103 S Main St, Wayland, MI 49348
(269) 792-2265

CLASSIFIEDS

Misc.

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www.wraysseptic.com
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Waanders Concrete Co.
Redi-Mix Concrete
Cement Blocks
673-6352
Babylon Road, Allegan

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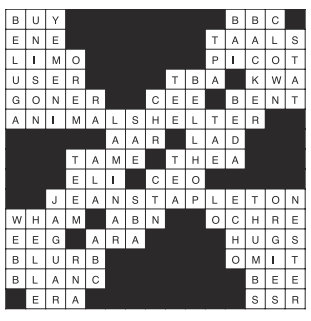

RELIGION SECTION

At the beginning of the 10th chapter of St John's Gospel we read the passage where Jesus defines himself as the Good Shepherd. He chose sheep and shepherds to emphasize the message, because in ancient Israel shepherds and sheep were a familiar part of everyday life. The shepherds who owned their flock cared for them; the hired hands were never able to fulfill that sense of compassion and care. The people heard the illustration and understood what he meant.

As followers of Jesus it is sometimes too easy to over-look just how blessed we are, and how much easier our life is. In the ancient world there was seemingly a deity in charge of every aspect of life, and each deity had to be worshipped, either out of fear, respect, or when asking for a favor.

There was no value in asking a god responsible for toothaches if a person wanted to have a fertile garden; nor in worshipping a war god when a village needed rain after a long drought. An individual had to learn which god held authority over each thing, know what was an acceptable offering, and use the right liturgy or formula to address the deity.

Even more frightening was the fact that many of the gods were capricious and loved messing up the lives of mortals. They did it for their amusement, not to teach lessons. The Egyptian god of chaos, Apophis, constantly stirred things up for both humans and other deities, and was devoted to attempting to kill their great god, Ra.

When the Israelites heard Jesus referring to himself as the Good Shepherd, they understood he was very different. The message was appealing because the Lord was bringing clarity and calmness out of chaos.

It is something we experience today. We may not have a pantheon of classical gods and goddesses in our life, but we are surrounded by modern and secular ones. Among them, politics, the economy, international relations, fashion, celebrities, and more. Sometimes, when our computers are acting up, we might be tempted to wonder if there is some sort of deity among the circuit boards.

Like the people who heard Jesus, we too are challenged with the question of whether we have the courage the old family relationship with the false gods of our modern age, or are eager and willing to commit our lives to him in faith of his persistent love, presence, and care?

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd,
Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

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